





## Hizbollah vows to fight on after future Israeli withdrawal

By Jacques Lhuillier  
Agence France Presse

BAALBECK, Lebanon — Hizbollah guerrillas will continue anti-Israeli attacks even after the Jewish state has withdrawn its forces from south Lebanon, a leader of the Shiite Muslim group warned in an interview with AFP.

"We shall forever reject Israel's existence," said Sheikh Subhi Tufayli in his well-guarded home in the suburbs of Baalbeck, a Hizbollah stronghold in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

"I tell you resistance will go on even after Israel's withdrawal."

Hizbollah claimed responsibility for two bomb attacks inside Israel's "security zone" in south Lebanon Thursday that killed nine members of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), and wounded 10 others.

The Iranian-backed group, which spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in Lebanon, said the bombings were aimed at "punishing" the SLA, "following repeated warnings and appeals to the enemy's agents to repent."

The SLA's 3,000 men are paid, equipped and trained by Israel, which has some 1,000 troops and intelligence agents in the zone.

The latest attacks were the bloodiest against the SLA in nine months.

Ten SLA militiamen were killed and 12 wounded on March 7, in a string of attacks in the occupied zone.

"Our goal is to destroy the

Zionist entity, and in the near future there won't be a single Jew or Zionist left in Palestine," said Sheikh Tufayli, formerly Hizbollah's secretary-general and now its chief representative in the Bekaa Valley.

"Peace will not survive those who have signed it," he said, branding PLO leader Yasser Arafat as a "traitor who will fall soon."

Hizbollah, the "Party of God," condemned the PLO-Israeli autonomy accord which launched Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May. It also slammed the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty.

If Syria signed such a deal it would be making "a big mistake," Sheikh Tufayli warned. He praised the firm stand adopted by Damascus.

"Thanks to Iran's help, we are continuing our economic

and military activities. Without this money, it would be more difficult but we would still keep going."

Sheikh Tufayli said his group was no longer receiving weapons and had to rely on "limited means" for its operations in south Lebanon.

But the situation on the ground was "excellent," he insisted, while declining to say how many fighters Hizbollah could count on.

Referring to a recent pledge by Lebanese President Elias Hrawi that "not a single bullet" would be fired at Israel from Lebanon if the Jewish state withdrew from the occupied zone, Tufayli said: "I guarantee that he won't be able to keep his promise."

He also ruled out handing over weapons to the Lebanese army if Israel withdrew.

## U.S., Europe differ on Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — European countries have subordinated their opposition to the spread of weapons to maintaining political relations with Russia and an unwillingness to single out Iran, a senior U.S. official has said.

Under Secretary of State Lynn Davis said Russia and China were still selling sophisticated conventional weapons and nuclear reactors to Iran, which the United States regards as a pariah state supporting international terrorism.

In a speech to the Atlantic Council she took issue with the Europeans over their policy on Iran.

Ms. Davis said the United States had sought Russian agreement to cease all arms sales to Iran in return for U.S. support for its membership of a new group coordinating policy on sensitive exports.

"In contrast, the Europeans have been prepared to admit Russia to the new regime, hoping that its arms sales to Iran will end," Ms. Davis said.

"Maintaining their political relationship with Russia and their reluctance to single out Iran have been given priority over their non-proliferation goals," Ms. Davis said.

## Amnesty asks Egypt to reveal fate of Kikhiya

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International urged Egypt on Friday to make public its investigation into the abduction last year of a prominent Libyan lawyer from a Cairo hotel.

The London-based human rights group said Mansur Kikhiya, an outspoken critic of the Libyan government, disappeared from the Al Safir hotel a year ago and had not been seen since.

"We are concerned that the outcome of the investigation into the disappearance of Mansur Kikhiya has still not been made public," Amnesty said in a statement.

"We have already asked

the Egyptian authorities to make public the results of the investigation, as well as asking the Libyan government for information about Mansur Kikhiya's whereabouts, but we have not had any reply from either government," it said.

Amnesty said it feared Mr. Kikhiya, a leading official of the main Libyan opposition group, may have been abducted by agents of the Libyan government.

He was attending a conference in Cairo held by the Arab Organisation for Human Rights when he failed to arrive for an arranged meeting with his brother.

Mr. Kikhiya, who was Libya's foreign minister from 1972-1974 and served as the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, was a leading human rights campaigner.

Before his disappearance the father of two lived in France.

"Any act of enforced disappearance is an offence to human dignity. It is condemned as a denial of the purpose of the charter of the United Nations and as a grave and flagrant violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms," Amnesty said.



Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (left) and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (right) are seen in a formal setting, likely during the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway, as they sit in the airplane on Friday. Rabin and Peres will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize during a ceremony on Saturday together with PLO leader Yasser Arafat (AFP photo)

## Search for peace continues in Oslo

By Colleen Siegel  
Reuters

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

The leaders of Israel and the PLO returned to Oslo, the city where their peace deal was crafted, on Friday to share the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize and strive to find a way to keep their beleaguered 15-month-old accord on course.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters after a short meeting with PLO leader Yasser Arafat on Thursday that the two of them and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin would meet in Oslo in hopes of ironing out difficulties.

Bloodshed caused by opponents of the deal which provides Palestinian self-rule in stages has dogged the accord, hammered out in Oslo and signed in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993.

The two worst incidents: On Feb. 25 a Jewish settler shot dead 30 Palestinians at a prayer in the West Bank town of Hebron. On Oct. 19 a suicide bomber of the Islamic Resistance Movement killed 22 people — 20 of them Israelis — when he blew up a Tel Aviv bus at morning rush hour.

On Oct. 14, the day it was announced that Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were this year's laureates, Hamas militants killed an Israeli soldier whom they had held for a week.

After a failed Israeli rescue

raid, in which one of the Israeli commandos and three kindappers were also killed, Mr. Rabin said: "I wish I could give up the Nobel Prize to get the two soldiers back."

Some Israeli officials have reservations at expanding self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho in light of the violence.

Some Israeli ministers this week said Israeli troops should not redeploy away from Palestinian population centres in still-occupied parts of the West Bank prior to Palestinian elections as the accords dictated.

Palestinian officials warned if Israel tried unilaterally to change the Oslo accords the deal would be destroyed.

On Thursday, Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat said after their meeting they understood one another. Israel's cabinet, ending a debate of three days, reaffirmed its commitment to the Oslo accords.

The accords provide Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, occupied by Israel since it captured them from, respectively, Egypt and Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

Gaza and Jericho were to get autonomy first. They did in May. On July 1, Mr. Arafat, long loathed in Israel, returned in triumph to his homeland after 27 years of embattled exile.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin emphasised Israeli soldiers

would no longer fight an unwinnable battle against militants and unarmed women and children in Gaza's alleys.

Each stage of the deal, which calls for final status talks no later than May 1996 with a permanent settlement two years after that, must be negotiated — and that has brought delays.

Elections, still without a date, should have been in July.

Yet the accord broke the logjam of the Middle East peace process begun in Madrid in 1991 and including Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel, the second by an Arab state after Egypt, on Oct. 26.

Only talks with Syria, and by extension Lebanon where Syria is the main powerbroker, have still to move off the mark.

Israel Television on Thursday screened parts of interviews done separately with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat by actor Peter Ustinov.

"Not only by wars but by peace we can achieve what we are looking to achieve... for our children," said Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Rabin: "(The) Nobel Prize is nice... but the peace has not yet been achieved in its comprehensive meaning."

On Friday, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres left Israel and Arafat left Gaza for Oslo. They will be awarded the prize on Saturday.

## Arafat to be a father

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — Suha Arafat, wife of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, is pregnant with the couple's first child, her spokeswoman told AFP Thursday.

"It will be a child of peace," the 31-year-old Palestinian first lady told Israel radio.

Spokeswoman Yola Hadadin said Suha was just one month pregnant.

"She is tired and sleeping now," Ms. Hadadin said.

Mrs. Arafat had cancelled interviews lined up for the day because "she has to rest," ahead of a trip Friday with her husband to Oslo where he is to share the 1994 Nobel Peace Prize with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Her personal gynaecologist, Ahmed Tibi, will travel with the couple, a secretary at the physician's office told AFP. Dr. Tibi is also a political advisor to Mr. Arafat.

Mrs. Arafat married the PLO chairman in secret on July 17, 1990, but the union was only disclosed in 1992. Before their marriage, Suha worked as economic advisor to Mr. Arafat, who is 65.

Until then, Mr. Arafat had always declared that Palestine was his only love.

Born into a wealthy Christian family in the West Bank town of Ramallah and educated abroad, Suha converted to Islam,

but campaigns against the imposition of the veil.

The couple settled in Gaza last July when Mr. Arafat returned to take charge of the Palestinian Authority after the launch of autonomy in May.

Mr. Arafat has maintained a low profile, appearing in public here only a few times to inaugurate events such as a cleanup campaign and the start of the school year.

But she has pressed for the liberation of Palestinian women, calling for "laws to protect her, training and education."

However, as the good news broke, so did an article in an Israeli newspaper saying Suha is not Mr. Arafat's first wife.

The Haaretz daily quoted PLO officials in Tunis as saying Mr. Arafat was married to Nejla Yassin, also known as Umm Nasser.

Ms. Yassin told the newspaper she met Mr. Arafat back in 1966 and divorced her husband a year later to live with the militant leader for several years.

"I am the only one who really understood him," she claimed. "I knew what upset him, what pleased him and what calmed him. I totally understood him."

She ran his office between 1972 and 1985. "He trusted me and I knew all his secrets," Ms. Yassin said.

## Explosions rock Sports City

(Continued from page 1)

building immediately following the initial explosion.

The storage establishment is 13 years old, surrounded only by a few homes. There were approximately 4,000-6,000 cylinders in the building, according to the owner of the gas store.

In an interview with Jordan Television, the owner of the gas store said only two storage rooms of the eight rooms inside were damaged.

A gas cylinder can only explode if it was old, or if it was exposed to heat over 700 degrees Celsius, a CDD official said.

"The only way a gas cylinder would explode is if it was misused," the official added. "Maybe the safety valve of the cylinder was not functioning properly, maybe an employee had

flames near the cylinder."

CDD units had difficulty approaching the scene as the road leading to the gas store was narrow and unpaved, only allowing trucks and rescue units to approach the scene from one direction and only in single file, making entry and exit to the area difficult. However, the CDD managed to have the fires under control in one hour from the time it broke out.

Firefighters braved the possibility of further explosions when they entered the building to check for any remaining pockets of fire.

Although there are few houses in the area of the store, residents said they have made many complaints to the authorities that the store was so close to their residential area.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Pollards  
17:30 ..... Un Pour Tous  
18:00 ..... Reportage  
18:30 ..... Les Intrepides  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Grands Galops  
19:30 ..... Harry and the Hendersons  
20:00 ..... Innovations  
20:30 ..... Quantum Leap  
21:00 ..... Murder She Wrote  
21:30 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "God Father"  
23:30 ..... Major Dad

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:55 ..... Fair  
06:30 ..... (Sunrise) Dhul  
11:20 ..... Dhuhr  
14:13 ..... 'Asr  
16:37 ..... Maghreb  
17:59 ..... Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Swiffish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terresanta Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be sunny but relatively cold with winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 0 / 10  
Aqaba ..... 3 / 17  
Deserts ..... -2 / 12  
Jordan Valley ..... 5 / 17

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 10, Aqaba 17 Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 682935  
Dr. Yousef Rashid ..... 896301  
Dr. Jamil Tarif ..... 794710  
Dr. Fayez Dabbas ..... 759155  
Firas pharmacy ..... 561912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336  
Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637025  
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Solam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Akram Momani ..... 248795  
Alquds pharmacy ..... (-)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Hussein Al Hajj ..... 984344  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

#### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111  
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue ..... 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 637101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 696390  
Public Security Department ..... 63021  
Hotel Complaints ..... 602800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power  
Company ..... 636381

#### HOSPITALS

RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..... 08-53200  
AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre, 813613/32  
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 6428146  
Jalal Maternity, J. Amn. 6424112  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 6641714  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 845945  
Al-Musallat Hospital ..... 6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajirin ..... 7711013  
Al-Bashir, J. Asirafieh ..... 7751126  
Army, Marfa ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)900560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)988732  
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)999990  
Princess Rana Hospital ..... (02)75555

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

##### ARRIVALS

###### Royal Jordanian (RJ)

###### Flights (Terminal 1)

08:45 ..... Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)  
09:15 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:25 ..... Dhahran (RJ)  
09:40 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)  
10:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
10:25 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
10:50 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)  
16:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
17:55 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 ..... Vienna (OS)  
15:45 ..... Rome, Larnaca (AZ)  
18:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
19:00 ..... Sana'a (YK)  
19:05 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
20:20 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:55 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)  
22:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
22:45 ..... London (BA)  
23:05 ..... Athens (OA)  
23:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ)

##### Flights (Terminal 1)

06:25 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Casablanca, Madrid (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Geneva, Paris (RJ)  
12:00 ..... London (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
19:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
20:05 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
20:20 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
20:40 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
21:25 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

##### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
13:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
19:15 ..... Dubai (EK)  
20:00 ..... Sana'a (YK)  
22:00 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
23:30 ..... Cairo (MS)

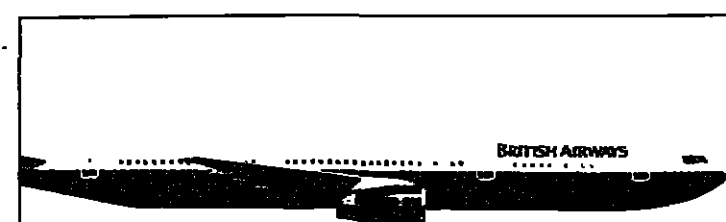
### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Arr. Amman 7:30 p.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 500  
Banana (Makassar) ..... 600 / 500  
Cabbage ..... 180 / 100  
Carrot ..... 320 / 200  
Cauliflower ..... 350 / 200  
Chambrine ..... 300 / 200  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 250 / 150  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 500 / 350  
Eggplant ..... 280 / 180  
Garlic ..... 550 / 400  
Grape Fruit ..... 280 / 180  
Lemon ..... 330 / 220  
Marrow (large) ..... 200 / 150  
Marrow (small) ..... 450 / 300  
Onion (green) ..... 360 / 260  
Onion (dry) ..... 420 / 300  
Orange ..... 600 / 400  
Pepper (hot) ..... 480 / 300  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 360 / 240  
Potato ..... 340 / 240  
Radish ..... 250 / 150  
Spinach ..... 300 / 200  
Tomato ..... 540 / 300



be a father

but campaigns against the imposition of the veil. The couple settled in Gaza last July when Mr. Arafat returned to take charge of the Palestinian Authority after the launch of autonomy in May. Mr. Arafat has maintained a low profile, appearing in public for only a few times to inaugurate events such as a clean-up campaign and the start of the school year. But she has pressed for the liberation of Palestinian women, calling for "laws to protect her training and education". However, as the good news broke, so did an article in an Israeli newspaper saying that she is not Mr. Arafat's first wife. The Haaretz daily quoted PLO officials in Tunis as saying Mr. Arafat was married to Ulla Yassin, also known as Ulla Nassar. Ms. Yassin told the newspaper she met Mr. Arafat back in 1980 and divorced her husband a year later to live with the militant leader for several years. "I am the only one who really understood him," she claimed. "I knew what upset him, what pleased him and what calmed him. I totally understood him." She ran his office between 1972 and 1985. "He trusted me and I knew all his secrets," Ms. Yassin said.

ions rock  
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from page 11

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21 99  
22 99  
23 99  
24 99

**MUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**  
Dep. Amman 10:00 AM  
Dep. Amman 10:30 AM  
Dep. Amman 11:00 AM  
Dep. Amman 11:30 AM

**MARKET PRICES**  
Type of goods and prices

Apples 100 kg 100  
Bananas 100 kg 100  
Cabbages 100 kg 100  
Carrots 100 kg 100  
Cauliflowers 100 kg 100  
Cucumbers 100 kg 100  
Eggplants 100 kg 100  
Fennel 100 kg 100  
Garlic 100 kg 100  
Ginger 100 kg 100  
Lemons 100 kg 100  
Limes 100 kg 100  
Mangoes 100 kg 100  
Melons 100 kg 100  
Onions 100 kg 100  
Pears 100 kg 100  
Pineapples 100 kg 100  
Potatoes 100 kg 100  
Raspberries 100 kg 100  
Strawberries 100 kg 100  
Tangerines 100 kg 100  
Tomatoes 100 kg 100  
Watermelons 100 kg 100

## King, Queen to attend graduation of Prince Ali from Sandhurst

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor left for the United Kingdom Thursday evening to attend the graduation ceremony of His Royal Highness Prince Ali Ben Al Hussein from Sandhurst military college.

Following the visit to Britain, King Hussein will travel to Morocco to take part in the Islamic summit conference at Casablanca where he will deliver Jordan's address to the meeting.

Referring to the general population census which starts today, the King urged all Jordanians to cooperate with the Department of Statistics in order to obtain accurate information for the sound planning of future socio-economic programmes.

Replying to a question about the Islamic summit in Morocco, which opens Saturday, the King said he hoped the deliberations would enable the Islamic nation to attain its aspirations and overcome the difficulties it is currently facing.

Referring to inter-Arab relations, he said he hoped that the coming days would open the way for Arab leaders to meet and re-establish solidarity among their countries.

On the just-concluded visit to Jordan by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, King Hussein expressed hope that it would help contribute towards advancing Jordanian-Dutch ties.

Noting that the Netherlands fully understands the Jordanian position, the King said that the Hague has stood by Jordan in its darkest days and Jordan truly appreciated this stand.

Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown

Prince Hassan, Princess Taghreed, Princess Sarvath, Princess Basma and other members of the Royal family bade farewell to the King and the Queen at the airport.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Cabinet members and other officials.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

King Hussein and Queen Noor are accompanied by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, Princess Rania, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Princess Ghida, Prince Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker and Khaled Karaki, the King's advisor.

A Royal decree was issued appointing Mr. Rawabdeh as acting prime minister during the absence of Dr. Majali.

reliance, the statement said. During a tour of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the statement said, Queen Noor briefed the royal guests on traditional handicrafts produced by women and communities benefiting from NHF's various training and income generating projects.

Also during the visit, students from NHF's National Music Conservatory (NMC) played the Dutch and Jordanian national anthems and performed pieces of classical Arabic music, it said.

The Dutch government, through the Small Projects Fund, has supported a rug weaving project in the south of Jordan, which won this year's first prize at the International Carpet and Rug Market exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia, in the U.S. for the quality and design of its products, the statement said.

According to the statement, Queen Beatrix commended the marketing strategy promoted by the NHF and praised the high quality of production.

Queen Noor, Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus were accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bint Al Hassan and her husband Nasser Judeh. Adviser to Queen Noor, Inam Mufti, received the royal guests and the accompanying delegation.

## Queen welcomes royal visitors to NHF

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and Her Royal Highness Prince Claus, who ended their visit to Jordan Thursday, earlier the same day were welcomed to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) by Her Majesty Queen Noor and members of the NHF Executive Committee and Board of Trustees, according to a Royal Court statement.

Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus and members of their delegation viewed a documentary film outlining NHF's philosophy and innovative grassroots development projects based on an integrated socio-economic strategy and geared towards income generation and self-

reliance, the statement said. During a tour of the Jordan Design and Trade Centre, the statement said, Queen Noor briefed the royal guests on traditional handicrafts produced by women and communities benefiting from NHF's various training and income generating projects.

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Women from various sectors of the Irbid community Thursday attend a workshop on water conservation (photo by M. Sabra)

## Water conservation workshop has impact on women attendees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

IRBID — Although domestic use accounts for only 20 per cent of Jordan's total water consumption, water conservation in the home is important and women play a crucial role in it, the 30 participants of a two-day workshop on water conservation for women concluded Thursday in Irbid.

The workshop, held at the General Federation of Jordanian Women branch office in Irbid, is part of a water awareness campaign carried out by the Jordan Environment Society (JES) in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

It was attended by more than 30 women of mixed backgrounds: university students, housewives, teachers, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In the future, the 30 women are expected to train other women on water conservation in their respective fields of work.

After lectures on the critical water situation in Jordan and an introduction to campaigning techniques, working groups were formed, which finally came up with a variety of suggestions to optimise the use of water in households.

The women demanded to encourage water harvesting in households, for instance by equipping kitchens with simple separate water sewage systems for polluted and less polluted wastewater.

Water used to wash hands, fruits or vegetables for instance in most cases could be reused for washing laundry or irrigating the domestic garden, the women suggested.

Houses should also be equipped with roof drainage systems, particularly in the north where rainfall is abundant, the women said.

One working group suggested campaigning for a law that would force builders to equip new houses with water-saving devices, which in most cases are "technically simple and less expensive than expected," environment engineer Munir Adgham of the JES said.

He underlined the women's role in saving water. "In our country, most women are housewives and therefore manage the major part of domestic water resources. And what is even more important, women can teach our children to save water and develop a sense of responsibility towards the environment," Mr. Adgham added.

The lecture on Jordan's water situation presented by Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani left an impact on the gathering. Some women said it was the first time they had been directly confronted with Jordan's critical water situation, and a great number of them admitted they had not been aware of how acute the shortage really was.

"I am definitely going to discuss this with my colleagues, and we will participate in the campaign, particularly in view of the International Water Day March 22," said the president of an association of housewives from Irbid.

## House finance panel to study draft budget

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee Sunday will start its debate of the draft 1995 fiscal budget which was presented to Parliament by the government Wednesday, according to the committee Chairman Ali Abul Ragheb.

Speaking after a meeting between committee members and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Thursday, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the panel will, in cooperation with Finance Minister Sami Gammoh, make a detailed study of the revenue and expense items in the budget.

In presenting the JD 1.674 billion draft budget to Parliament, Dr. Majali said it was one of the most ambitious to be presented because people have high expectations in the wake of the signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

Referring to the meeting with the prime minister Thursday, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that different aspects of the draft budget and the government's economic and social plan were discussed.

He said that the draft budget was prepared under special circumstances following

ing the peace treaty with Israel, noting that the committee's view was to include advanced programmes that would reflect the people's aspirations for improved standards of living. Also, he said, the committee hopes that the government will introduce laws to encourage investments and cut down on routine.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that committee members asked the prime minister at the meeting about the government's achievements on the domestic front during 1994, economic projects, the national housing scheme, government plans to increase investments in the Aqaba and Dead Sea area and plans for promoting the free zones of Jordan and dealing with the chronic questions of poverty and unemployment.

Noting that the committee would be fully cooperating with the government and working as a team with the minister of finance to achieve social justice, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the prime minister has responded to the committee's queries on the government's financial and economic policies.

## EU teams to arrive for talks on financing projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three delegations from the European Union (EU) countries will be visiting Jordan this month and next to discuss with government officials a practical programme for financing Jordanian development projects and a new partnership agreement replacing that of 1977.

The announcement about the visits was made following a meeting here Thursday between Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and German Ambassador Heinrich Reiner and French Ambassador Bernard Bajelet.

Mr. Bajelet told the Jordan Times Friday that the meeting focused on the modalities of partnership between the EU and Jordan.

One of the proposals floated at the meeting, said Mr. Bajelet, was to hold a seminar in mid-January with the participation of the ambassadors of the EU countries in Amman and all Jordanian government departments concerned with the partnership.

He said the meeting also aimed to coordinate stands between the EU and Jordan on future meetings such as the economic Mideastern summit which will be hosted in Amman in the first half of

1995 and the Mediterranean conference which will be held in Spain in the second half of the year.

He said there was a general reviewed of projects that Europe might help carry out in the region in general, and Jordan in particular, saying no specific project was discussed, but most probably Europe will play an important role in water projects, which the ambassador described as the most important in the region, in addition to cooperation in tourism.

He added that these issues will be discussed in detail in future meetings.

The meeting with the prime minister, said Mr. Bajelet, aimed also to demonstrate the EU's response to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to Brussels and his meetings with senior EU officials.

He said it was imperative at present to update agreements between Jordan and the EU which date back to 1977, especially after the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

The partnership agreement, he said, aims to give more substance to relations between both parties and "to affirm Europe's wish to be more involved in the peace process and to stress our presence in the region, and in Jordan in particular."

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

- CHOIR**  
★ Choir at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- LECTURE**  
★ Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "Renovation of National Thought" by Dr. Mustafa Al Faqi of Egypt at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.
- POETRY RECITAL**  
★ Poetry recital by poet Ghassan Zaqtan at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:30 p.m.
- EXHIBITIONS**  
★ Exhibition of home furnishings and furniture entitled "Colours and Crafts" at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development new offices, Al Madina Al Munawara Street.  
★ Exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artist at Darat Al Funn.  
★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Salman Abbas at Alia Art Gallery.  
★ Exhibition of abstract by several artists at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.

## 2 killed on Safout highway

By Rama Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people were killed in a road accident early Friday morning on the Safout highway where Thursday 33 people survived another accident.

According to a police official, Friday's accident, which also left one victim in critical condition, was the result of speeding.

The official said the accident occurred when the driver of a taxi lost control of his vehicle and struck a light pole.

All three victims were rushed to Jordan University Hospital. The attending doctor pronounced two of the

victims dead on arrival. He identified the dead as Sa'ed Atta, 23, and Mohammad Samir, 22.

The doctor said the driver of the taxi, Mohammad Abdul Aziz, 22, was in the intensive care unit and was listed in serious condition.

Meanwhile, 22 people had reportedly left hospitals Friday after a road collision on the same highway involving a public bus, a cement truck and another vehicle.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident was caused by technical trouble.

"The truck driver lost his brakes down the hill because of an oil leakage," the official said Friday.

He said the truck driver started honking and flashing

his lights to warn vehicles, "but apparently the bus driver did not notice him and the truck hit the bus from the back."

He said the impact and the heavy load of the truck caused the bus to overturn onto another vehicle driving on the left side.

"Luckily there was only one driver in the car, and he survived the crash," the official said.

He added that the bus was carrying 30 passengers, but only 20 people were injured.

He said eight of the passengers were taken to King Hussein Medical Centre, four to Al Bashir Hospital and the rest to Jordan University Hospital.

He said all the victims were released from hospital.

## Road accident seminars run back-to-back

AMMAN (Petra) — As a two-week seminar on road safety organised by the Traffic Department in cooperation with the Swedish government ended Thursday, another seminar on road accidents and the role of family education in preventing them opened the same day at the Jerusalem Community College.

Traffic Department Director Brigadier Nimer Al Hmoud delivered an address at the conclusion of the first seminar and thanked the

Swedish government for its contribution to the event in which several Swedish experts participated.

The seminar, said Brig. Hmoud, is part of a series of activities and functions organised by the Traffic Department with the aim of reducing road accidents.

Meantime, at the Jerusalem Community College, Public Security Department (PSD) Deputy Director for Traffic Affairs Major General Mu'ayyad Al Mubaslat, said in an opening address

that the problem of traffic accidents in the Kingdom has become a major problem requiring a comprehensive national effort and the cooperation of all the concerned authorities.

Maj.-Gen. Mubaslat said the PSD has referred to the concerned authorities a new draft traffic law that constitutes a qualitative move and tackles all gaps in the previous law. "We are awaiting its approval after it passes in all the constitutional stages," he said.

## Foreign affairs committee looks to OIC summit to unify Islamic nation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee Friday voiced hope that the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) summit which will be hosted by Morocco this week will constitute a opportune occasion for the Islamic nation to unify its ranks.

In a statement read by Chairman Abdul Karim Kabarti, the committee said the current state in the history of the nation requires unifying ranks and mobilising capabilities in order to deal with the new international reality in such a way that

guarantees safeguarding the interests of the nation.

Mr. Kabarti said the committee believes that of the most important question to be discussed by the summit is the meaning of fences between OIC member states to the minimum possible level that would enable the Islamic nation to deal with developments as one bloc.

Mr. Kabarti said the availability of political will by the leaders of the Islamic countries was the sole guarantee of resolving problems and crises in various parts of the Islamic world.

The committee, said Mr. Kabarti, calls on the Islamic nation to launch a parliamentary dialogue that would run parallel to the official dialogue since cooperation among the Islamic nation should be based on strategic needs rather than on a temporary basis.

He added that the committee fully supports Jordan's official stand on the various issues listed on the agenda of the summit, namely the Jordanian leadership's calls for Islamic solidarity and its stands on the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

## JTV, Radio devote air time to children

By Rima Corthawi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In accordance with the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF) move to promote the International Children's Day Broadcasting (ICDB), Jordan Radio and Television celebrated the event by involving children in yesterday's programming.

This internationally recognised occasion started three years ago when James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, challenged the broadcasting industry to dedicate more attention to children and was supported by members of the International Council of Television Arts and Services.

Since then UNICEF has organised the worldwide observance of ICDB on the second Sunday of December.

According to UNICEF reports, statistics reveal that in 1993, almost 1,000 television and radio stations in 112 countries participated in International Children's Day of Broadcasting, and more than 70 countries produced programmes especially for the day.

Children were even involved in planning and promoting the day in more than 50 countries, and some level of governmental involvement was witnessed in 16 countries where leaders or heads of states participated.

Due to the power of television and radio in directing public interests, "this day is very important in focusing regard to children's issues so that activities could be inclined towards improvements in these areas," said Sina Bahous, information/communication officer at UNICEF in Amman.

As a "catalyst" for change, "the media can and must learn to

exercise a responsibility commensurate with the great power they hold," wrote Tom Johnson, president of Cable News Network (CNN).

Naturally, this responsibility extends beyond news reporting to include other special entertaining and educational programming, according to UNICEF.

Jordan Television (JTV) directs a substantial share of its programming towards children. However in this particular day's activities, we mean to enhance public awareness of children's needs and their welfare, which has a great impact on our nation's future," said Zahia Innab, assistant head of programmes at JTV. During this children's event in the past two years, JTV presented some programmes for children, but this year there was a stronger emphasis on the occasion.

Throughout the day, programmes on both JTV channels (the Arabic and foreign) were interspersed by two-minute spots revolving around children's interests, opinions and outlooks on global issues such as the environment, the media, and child development.

Also regularly scheduled programmes included items that underscored children's concerns, presented satellite communication between children from Jordan and Oman and showed children's involvement in community activities such as visiting other children in hospitals.

Moreover, a film on children's adventures, a documentary on the children's programmes presented by JTV in the past 15 years and a report on childhood affairs were also broadcast.

"This coming week's programmes will also include some special documentaries and items for children," said Ms. Innab.

Channel Two's special pro-

gramme on children's rights, entitled "Raised Voices," also handled worldwide issues on child-related affairs.

"Quality children programmes serve the dual purpose of achieving adult acknowledgement of children's needs and encouraging children's expression so that further development can be maintained," said Rima Azar, director of Channel Two.

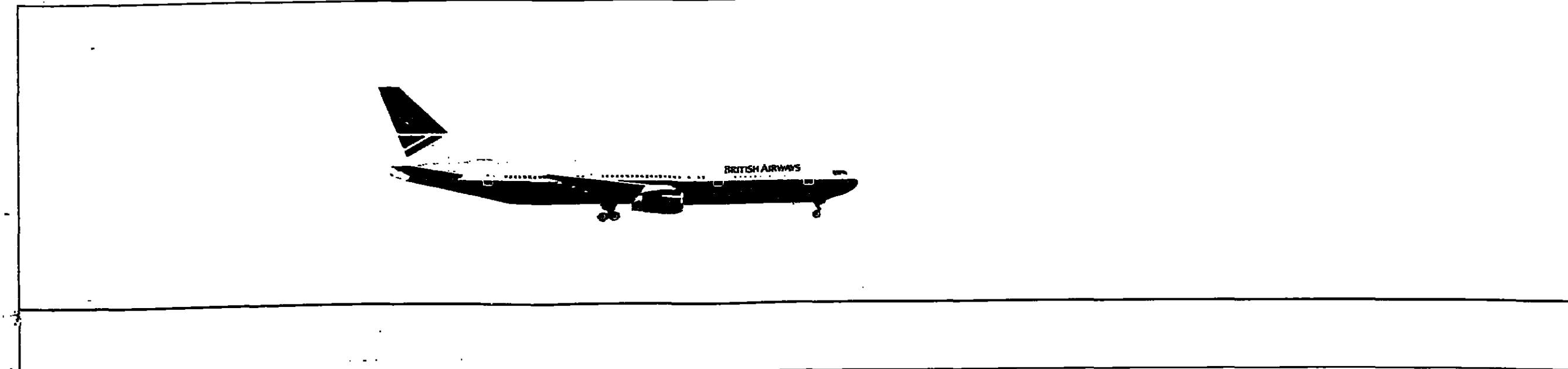
Since attention has been drawn to children's needs, great efforts have been made in child development. According to UNICEF reports, in 1989, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasises all children's right to lead healthy and productive lives.

This convention was ratified by 159 countries on April 26, 1994, and UNICEF hopes for universal ratification by the year 1995.

The outcome of the International Children's Day of Broadcasting has manifested itself in several memorable events such as on Dec. 10, 1993, when Nobel Laureates F.W. de Klerk and Nelson Mandela dedicated their peace prize to children.

Additional programmes to be presented on the foreign channel this week include today's animated programme about children's needs and the considerations involved in ensuring a prospering generation, according to Ms. Azar.

Radio Jordan's participation in this event was concerned with dedicating three of the afternoon hours of the English service to airing conversations involving children from different schools in the country. The Arabic service dedicated the full day's activities to children, providing great opportunity for all to contribute.





## Over 310 die in China fire

BEIJING (R) — One of China's deadliest fires engulfed a cinema hall in a remote oil town in the west, killing more than 310 people, most of them children performing and watching a cultural show, officials said Friday.

The Friendship Hall cinema in Karamay, near the border with the former Soviet Union, was packed with nearly 800 people, including 500 schoolchildren, when the fire broke out Thursday evening, an education official told Reuters.

"About 300 people were killed and several are missing," he said by telephone from Karamay, in northwest Xinjiang province. "We do not know the number of injured because they are still counting."

Local television broadcast a brief message of condolence over the tragedy and appealed to residents to keep calm.

Many victims failed to escape the blaze because all but one of the doors were locked and iron bars blocked the windows. Most of the bodies were found piled near

the only exit, one witness said by telephone.

Survivors reported seeing sparks from the ceiling that lit the stage curtains and electrical wires, sending a ball of flames hurtling into the front rows of the auditorium.

One weeping broadcast official said the fire appeared to have been caused by an electrical fault.

Two hospitals alone reported admitting more than 225 injured from the fire, the second disastrous blaze in China in less than two weeks.

An official at the Xinjiang Oil Administration General Hospital said doctors were treating 116 people, of whom 67 were in critical condition. Most were children. Karamay Deputy Mayor Zhao Lanxiu was among those badly hurt.

More than 110 people were in the People's Hospital, including 11 in critical condition and not expected to survive, a doctor said.

"The other 100 are only slightly injured but they are children and they are in shock," he said. Some victims were poisoned by noxious fumes from the burning

decor. Officials were having difficulty compiling a final death toll because many grieving parents had taken home the bodies of their children, the Oil Administration Hospital doctor said.

China's worst reported fire of modern times was also in a cinema in northwestern Xinjiang province, killing more than 600 people in 1979.

The cream of students from 10 primary schools and seven secondary schools in Karamay, along with their teachers, were in the newly decorated hall to present a special cultural show to a visiting education inspection team.

"We only have a certain number of schools and they all sent their best students, so in every corner of the town there are families who have lost children," a teacher at the Number Two Secondary School said by telephone.

The fire erupted shortly after 6 p.m., but firefighters, apparently inexperienced and overwhelmed by the extent of the disaster, responded slowly, trying to put out the fire instead of rescuing those

trapped inside, the teacher said. Troops had to be deployed to bring out those inside, he said.

"Parents rushed to the scene and the situation was very chaotic as everyone struggled to rescue people," the education official said. "Most of the victims were burnt."

Most of the children were from families of workers in local oil fields, which provide employment for 90 per cent of residents in the remote town of 220,000 people, about 300 kilometres northwest of the Xinjiang capital of Urumqi.

The blaze comes just two weeks after a burning newspaper tossed onto a sofa at a birthday party transformed a dance hall in northeastern Liaoning province into an inferno in which 233 young weekend revellers died and 16 were injured.

Narrow exits and high windows prevented the dancers from escaping that fire, and bodies were found in a pile four to five layers deep near the only door.



A group of Cuban refugees board a plane as they leave a refugee camp in Panama. Some of the refugees will be joining relatives in Spain.

## 1,000 Cubans flee Panama camp; 196 U.S. troops hurt in protest

PANAMA CITY (R) — Almost 200 U.S. soldiers were injured, some seriously, during violent protests by 1,000 Cuban refugees who escaped from a Panamanian camp, U.S. military officials said Thursday.

One hundred and ninety-six soldiers were hurt when they tried to quell a revolt by the stone-throwing Cubans, officials said. At least 17 refugees were injured in the melee, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

Most of the injured soldiers suffered cuts and bruises, although some suffered "injuries that are much more serious," according to a military official. The official said none of the injuries were life-threatening.

Lieutenant John Thomas, a U.S. military spokesman, said late Thursday that the situation at the camps appeared calm.

Lt. Thomas said that of the injured Americans, 16 required hospitalisation and 12 Cubans were hospitalised.

"None of these are medically classified as serious injuries," he said.

Panamanian Television showed images of bloodied soldiers being taken in ambulances to a local U.S. hospital, some appeared to have broken arms.

American soldiers and Panamanian police captured most of the escaped Cubans in the jungle surrounding the Panama Canal near four camps where the United States holds almost 9,000 Cuban refugees, officials said.

"Most, if not all, of the escaped Cubans are back at the camps," Liliana Levy-Dutram, spokeswoman for the U.S. refugee operation in Panama, told Reuters.

But as the Cubans were being returned to the camp, another protest flared at a second camp Thursday afternoon, Colonel Melanie Reeder, a U.S. military spokeswoman, told reporters.

U.S. soldiers were authorised to use teargas to disperse Cuban protesters if necessary, Col. Reeder said, but she added that she did not know if teargas was used.

The crisis began Wednesday when Cuban protests left some 40 more American soldiers slightly injured. The Cubans also damaged 12 military vehicles and tore down part of a fence surrounding one of the camps.

The Cubans, who were transferred to Panama after they were picked up by the U.S. Coast Guard this summer, have protested the slow

pace of transfers from the camps to the United States and other countries.

"This is a very serious demonstration... the seriousness of this clearly indicates the frustration these people have with the uncertainty over their future. It is very concerning to me," General James Wilson, commander of the U.S. refugee operation in Panama, told reporters early Thursday in discussing the Wednesday demonstration.

Some 145 Cubans were detained on Thursday by U.S. soldiers and held in custody, officials said.

U.S. troops and Panamanian police set up roadblocks across the sparsely-populated area to apprehend any Cubans still at large from the camps, U.S. officials said.

The unrest began hours before some 129 Cubans were granted asylum and flown to the United States and Spain.

Lt. Wilson said he ordered stepped-up security at each of the camps and said U.S. officials began checking the refugees to see who would qualify for asylum in the United States.

"We hope the (transfers to Spain and to the United States) will provide the other refugees with a sense of hope," Lt. Wilson said.

## Thai elections expected as coalition collapses

BANGKOK (AFP) — Chuan Leekpai's hopes of becoming the first civilian to complete a four-year term as Thai prime minister were shattered when his coalition collapsed, making snap elections a virtual certainty.

A dejected Chuan said Friday that remaining government leaders would "make do with whatever we have left and stay true to the democratic path."

Mr. Chuan indicated he would remain at the head of a minority government for the time being to ensure passage of several key items of legislation. But he acknowledged that the crumbling coalition could not last long.

Elected in September of 1992 to replace a military government brought down by bloody pro-democracy demonstrations, Mr. Chuan is likely to be forced to dissolve parliament within weeks and call new elections to avoid a censure debate.

"The consensus is that dissolution will come sooner rather than later," a Western diplomat with lengthy service in Thailand said Friday.

The collapse was triggered when the New Aspiration Party (NAP) defected Thursday after opposing constitutional amendments that would have curtailed the privileges of local officials and the Interior Ministry, headed by NAP leader Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh.

The military-dominated Senate accelerated the breakdown by joining the opposition in the House in a successful call for a special session of parliament after the body's normal close on Dec. 19.

The special session would rob Chuan of six months' breathing space between normal sessions of parliament and almost certainly confront his government with a no-confidence debate.

## Namibia president takes early poll lead

WINDHOEK (R) — President Sam Nujoma took an early lead in Namibia's general elections when partial results from the first of 750 polling stations were announced Friday.

Returning officers at Arandis near Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast said Mr. Nujoma, of the ruling SWAPO party, won 3,212 votes against 493 for his only rival in the presidential race, Misake Muyongo, leader of the opposition Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA).

Parliamentary results were not given and final tallies are not expected until early next week, although Mr. Nujoma and SWAPO, in power since 1990 independence from South Africa, are expected to win an outright victory.

Namibians awaiting returns from the first post-independence elections were certain Mr. Nujoma and SWAPO would win but said this time they would have to deliver on campaign promises.

"We gave SWAPO four-and-a-half years to show us they want to improve our lives. Those years and months were enough for them to know what we want. After this win, they must deliver," said Katutura township resident Goliath Maasdrop.

Many Namibians say Mr. Nujoma and SWAPO could achieve the two-thirds majority which eluded it in 1989 elections.

"SWAPO gave us peace and stability. After this election it must give us jobs, houses and curb the crime rate," said white businessman Maxwell Stopforth.

Despite soaring crime, minimal economic success and 40 per cent unemployment, SWAPO remains popular — particularly among the black majority.

Mr. Nujoma said he and his party were aware of the challenges.

"We (have) laid the foundation of democracy by ensuring there is peace and stability. We did our research



Residents continue to flock to the polls Thursday as Namibia enters the second and final day of post-independence elections. The elections supervised by U.N. envoys are the first since independence from South Africa in 1990 (AFP).

forbidding Mr. Nujoma from running for a third term. Others said it would be wrong to give the government carte blanche.

"Namibians would be stupid to give SWAPO a two-thirds majority. This country's government will be more corrupt, autocratic and an unchecked one-party state," said Misake Muyongo, leader of the opposition DTA, which holds 21 National Assembly seats.

Nine seats are held by small parties and the formerly Marxist SWAPO occupies 42. The party is dominated by members of the country's biggest ethnic group — the Owambo — who comprise half of the country's 650,000 registered voters.

Some neither knew nor cared that a two-thirds majority would allow SWAPO to rewrite the constitution and to scrap a clause

## Cambodian journalist shot dead

PHNOM PENH (R) — A Cambodian journalist working for a Khmer language newspaper has been shot dead in eastern Kompong Cham province, Information Minister Ieng Mouly said Friday.

He said Chan Dary, 28, a reporter for the popular Koh Santepheap (Island of Peace) newspaper was shot

"by unidentified gunmen" Thursday morning.

"I've just learned, this morning that there was a killing. I have asked the Ministry of Interior to follow up and bring me more information. I have no more details," Mr. Mouly told Reuters.

He said that until he had received a report from the Interior Ministry he would be unable to say whether Mr. Dary had been murdered for personal or political reasons.

According to a statement later issued by Mr. Mouly, the shooting occurred in Kompong Cham, about 90 kilometres northeast of Phnom Penh. Mr. Dary was married with two children.

## New governor takes office in Mexican state, faces rebel threat

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico (R) — The new governor of Mexico's crisis-torn state of Chiapas, Eduardo Robledo, took office Thursday amid street protests and warnings from peasant guerrillas that they will renew their military attacks.

Mr. Robledo, of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), was sworn in at a ceremony attended by President Ernesto Zedillo in the state capital surrounded by tight security.

But leftist indigenous and peasant groups shortly afterwards declared opposition leader Amado Avendaño their "legitimate" governor and pledged to launch a campaign of civil disobedience while setting up a parallel government.

Mr. Robledo's main challenge as he takes on one of the toughest jobs in Mexico will come from peasant rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) who this week vowed to end an 11-month-old ceasefire once Mr. Robledo took office.

Surrounded by army units, the Zapatistas' military capacity is limited but guerrilla chief Subcomandante Marcos implied his troops would push for rebellion in towns and villages lying outside the large area of mountain and jungle territory currently under their formal control.

Officials in the Chiapas towns of Ocosingo, scene of the heaviest fighting in the bloody Zapatista uprising in January, and Comitán told Reuters that their streets

were quiet on Thursday. The rebels seized Ocosingo in New Year's Day raids, but retreated under heavy army attack to the jungle strongholds where they have continued their campaign for indigenous rights.

Responding to the Zapatista threat, Mr. Zedillo said in a speech after Mr. Robledo's inauguration that government troops would hold their fire. "I have sent precise orders that the Mexican army maintains the ceasefire."

Political opponents claim Mr. Robledo stole August elections through fraud and had threatened massive demonstrations to block him from taking office but his inauguration went smoothly as troops patrolled the streets of Chiapas' capital.

## Plot to kill Maldives leader found in spy suspect's

TRIVANDRUM, India (R) — A diary kept by a Maldivian woman charged with spying on India's space programme described a plot to kill Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom with a human bomb, a police officer said Friday.

T.V. Madhusoodanan, director-general of police in southern Kerala state, told Reuters the diary belonged to Mariam Rasheeda, who was arrested in mid-October on suspicion she had bought space secrets with sex and money.

Another Maldivian woman, two Indian rocket scientists and two businessmen have also been arrested in the sex, money and secrets scandal, India's biggest spy case.

Mr. Madhusoodanan said the plot described in the diary involved a woman named Seetha in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

He said Rasheeda told police Seetha was to strap a

bomb to her body and jump before a car carrying the Maldivian leader.

Under interrogation, Rasheeda said she belonged to the National Security Force in the Maldives and was sent to India to enquire into the plot to kill Mr. Gayoom, which she said was hatched by presidential rival Ilias Ibrahim.

"The government of Maldives has nothing to say about what is allegedly written in Mariam Rasheeda's diary with regard to a plot to kill President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom," a Maldivian government spokesman in Male said.

The spokesman denied that Ms. Rasheeda belonged to the National Security Force in the Maldives.

The diary notes, written in the official Maldivian language of Dhivegi, were read to crime branch police by a sixth-grade Maldivian schoolboy, Ibrahim, Izhan, who

lives in Trivandrum.

"The notes said that not only our president but also a minister would be assassinated," Izhan told Reuters. "I was frightened on reading it."

The boy said a Maldivian minister was to be assassinated on the Maldives' Independence Day, Nov. 11. "Simultaneously Seetha wearing a belt bomb would jump in front of the car carrying President Gayoom the same day," the boy said.

Izhan said Ms. Rasheeda came to lunch at his parents' house in late October, then departed leaving two bags. "The last we heard was that she had been arrested," he said.

Indian authorities have said Ms. Rasheeda and a second Maldivian woman, Izzia Hassan, were intelligence operatives for an unknown foreign country who obtained vital defence secrets from a scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Nambi Narayanan.

## White House considering cuts in federal government

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House, anticipating similar moves by Republican lawmakers, is considering drastic cuts in the federal government that could include eliminating some departments. The Washington Post said Friday.

An unnamed senior administration official said the proposals are being drawn up by the National Economic Council and will be submitted to President Bill Clinton early next week.

The options under consideration include eliminating departments such as Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Energy, although advisers appear to favour "serious, significant, major restructurings."

The need to reduce the size of the federal government in the face of a dwindling budget has been one of Mr. Clinton's priorities since he took office in January 1993, but the Democrats' loss of both houses of Congress in last month's mid-term election has made the move more urgent.

Opposition legislators have already announced their intention to slash the 1996 federal budget that Mr. Clinton is due to present in Congress in February.

Reacting to what is perceived as shift to the political centre by American voters, the White House has put its budget process under review to produce a "much more audacious response" to the Republican gains, officials said.

The White House has four goals in structuring its budget: streamlining government, consolidating agencies and departments, eliminating functions; personnel and areas of government, and privatising some functions performed by government.

The proposal to jettison HUD has prompted Secretary Henry Cisneros into action to save his department by presenting a set of proposals that call for "dramatic restructuring" that saves money, another administration official said.

After nearly daily meetings this week on the budget, the daily said, Mr. Clinton has

scheduled another one on Monday to debate some of the options.

One department official said several views prevail in the White House on how to go about it.

Meanwhile, the U.S. army said Thursday it will cut 45,000 troops to reach a total of 495,000 by the end of 1996 as it reaches a fighting goal of 10 active duty divisions.

The move is part of a major reduction in U.S. defence spending and troops after the cold war and it will be felt most in six U.S. states and Germany, the army said. The army has already been slashed from 18 divisions and 770,000 troops in 1989 to 12 divisions and 540,000 troops today after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

U.S. Army Secretary Togo West and General Gordon Sullivan, the army's chief of staff, said Thursday that the service's moves over the next two years will be a major step in preparing the service for the 21st century.

The 10-division army will consist of four light divisions and six heavy divisions, all

stationed at existing locations. Each will have three full fighting brigades as well as support units, a senior army official told reporters.

There are currently 1.6 million personnel in the active U.S. army, navy, air force and Marines, and that total will shrink to 1.4 million by 1999 under the Pentagon's current long-range reduction plan.

The army official told reporters at a Pentagon briefing that 35,000 of the 45,000 troops being cut over the next two years would be in the continental United States. Another 10,000 will be reduced in Germany, where the army now has a total of about 75,000 troops.

Kansas, Colorado and Texas will be hardest hit by the army cuts over the next two years. Hawaii, Louisiana and Kentucky will also feel some financial impact, the army said.

The air force, meanwhile, announced that it will reduce its civilian work force by 11,700 in the current fiscal year and by a total of 38,000 civilians by the year 2001.

## Unknown Van Gogh still life to go on show

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — A hitherto unknown painting by the Dutch impressionist painter Vincent Van Gogh is to go on show at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam until the end of the year. The canvas is a still life of a bunch of flowers, many of them asters, and experts think it was painted during the autumn of 1886 at the start of the artist's 1886-88 Parisian period. This was when he first began to experiment with impressionist techniques, museum spokeswoman Rianne Norbart said.

The painting was bought by a Swiss family from Zurich in a flea market at Reims in northeast France after World War II. It was soon banished to an attic and it was not until a big Van Gogh exhibition in 1990 that the owner realised the importance of the picture. It was authenticated by the museum and restored in Amsterdam where it will be displayed from Thursday through Dec. 31. The identity of the owner is being kept secret, the painting having been submitted to the museum for authentication by Zurich dealer Walter Feilchenfeldt, the only person to know who owns it.

"When you own a Van Gogh, you keep it quiet," Mr. Norbart said. The museum says the still life was never varnished and probably never framed. For that reason "the work is of major importance, since very few Van Gogh canvases have reached us in their original, untreated state," it added. The last discovery of an unknown Van Gogh was in 1990 when a couple living in Milwaukee in the United States sold at auction a still life not listed in the official catalogues.

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# World News

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## Thai customs rescues baby kangaroos, emus

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai customs agents rescued about 100 baby kangaroos and some 100 exotic birds, net of them emus, that were smuggled into the country on a fishing boat, a government statement said Friday. The agents, acting on a tip, swooped down on the Thai trawler Pua shortly before midnight Thursday at a small port in Nakhon Si Thammarat province just south of Bangkok. A Customs Department statement said the kangaroos found in the hold of the ship were "very tired" but otherwise in good shape. It said adding that the animals and birds would be turned over to the Thai Zoo in Bangkok. The ship captain told officials the kangaroos and birds were obtained in Indonesia and were to be sold in private show in Thailand, without paying through normal customs procedures. Both the kangaroos and the emus, a large mountain bird, are native to Australia.

## Bolshoi performers stage protest

MOSCOW (AP) — Dancers of the famed Bolshoi Theatre went through with a dramatic performance of the ballet "The Nutcracker" Thursday night in a protest against the leadership of President Vladimir Lukin. An audience of performers and officials of the theatre gathered in the hall to watch the performance. A spokesman for the Bolshoi said the dancers were protesting against the leadership of President Lukin, who is known for his authoritarian style. The dancers said they were protesting against the leadership of President Lukin, who is known for his authoritarian style. The dancers said they were protesting against the leadership of President Lukin, who is known for his authoritarian style.



Opposition picketers and street children damage a pedicab in downtown Dhaka hours before the end of the opposition's two-day general strike across Bangladesh. More than 200 people were injured in clashes nationwide which were mainly between the government and opposition supporters (AFP photo)

## Bangladesh opposition rejects Zia's offer

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh's opposition Friday issued a new rejection of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's offer to form an interim government that would oversee the next elections. In a move aimed at ending the country's deepening political crisis, Mrs. Zia proposed that she head a pre-election leadership that would include members of the opposition. The appeal came at the end of a two-day anti-government strike mounted to demand Mrs. Zia's resignation as well as a constitutional amendment that would guarantee a neutral government to supervise elections in Bangladesh. The opposition-led protest left one person dead and nearly 300 more injured in violent clashes nationwide between rival groups and with police. Main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed claimed that two of her supporters had been killed. "Let us collectively resolve the impasse within the framework of the constitution," Mrs. Zia said in a speech marking the end of the 17th session of parliament Thursday. Mrs. Zia implied her latest proposal on elections scheduled for early 1996 was the best offer the opposition was likely to receive. "We have made the maximum concession, as we believe in democracy and we are ready to implement it, if the opposition agrees," Mrs. Zia said. She said under her proposal, the interim government would include five lawmakers from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the remaining seats would be held by the opposition, with herself retaining the prime minister. Thursday's proposal was said to be made by the BNP during the aborted Commonwealth-brokered talks with the opposition in November. Mrs. Zia's political opponents also rejected that proposal. In turning down the latest plan, an MP of the opposition Awami League (AL) said "talks can only be held after the government approves a constitutional amendment in line with our demands." Legislators opposed to Mrs. Zia's rule have been boycotting parliament since March and have threatened to resign en masse on Dec. 28 unless the supreme law of the land is changed to provide for the new elections scheme. The government has said that if opposition MPs resign, by-elections would be held or the entire 330-member parliament would be dissolved.

## Doubts emerge on Delors presidential bid

PARIS (AFP) — Speculation mounted Friday that European Commission chief Jacques Delors will stay out of next spring's French presidential elections, despite successive opinion polls suggesting he would win. Persistent rumours that the 69-year-old Delors has finally decided not to campaign have put the wind up his Socialist party. Following on its disastrous performance in legislative elections last year, the party now fears that a Delors defection will leave the field wide open for the right. The rumours snowballed in spite of the fact they had no apparent foundation except for the obvious reluctance and hesitations of the potential candidate over the past six months and the suspense Mr. Delors himself has cultivated in recent weeks. One report said Mr. Delors had told German Chancellor Helmut Kohl of his intentions in Budapest during this week's summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), but did not say what it was. Mr. Kohl himself, speaking in Brussels Thursday, said he thought Mr. Delors would announce his decision Sunday, when he is due to be interviewed on French television. Mr. Kohl told journalists: "You will have your answer on Sunday. I think it will be an important media event." In Paris, Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who retires in May at the end of his second seven-year term, was more pessimistic. Mr. Mitterrand reportedly told visitors recently that Mr. Delors's decision would come "next week." The French head of state added that he believed Mr. Delors did not wish to stand, but reportedly emphasised: "But this does not necessarily mean that Jacques Delors will refuse to declare his candidacy." Among the outgoing European Commission president's aides in Brussels, a majority appeared to believe in a Delors "no", as did former Socialist Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, who is close to the commission chief. Expressing Socialist anguish, former Prime Minister Laurent Fabius said a Delors defection would be "an immense disappointment" for the left who would lose its only electable candidate. Another Socialist former premier, Pierre Mauroy, said that Mr. Delors had gone too far in encouraging the hopes of the left, not to stand. "I see such hope growing that he will be a candidate and cannot see how he can say 'no' to all those who are hoping," Mr. Mauroy said. For his part, Gaullist leader and presidential candidate Jacques Chirac said in an interview he "felt in his bones" that Mr. Delors would not be candidate "because his wife (Marie) and his daughter (Socialist politician Martine Aubry) are opposed." Doubts about the candidacy came as the sixth opinion poll in two weeks said that Mr. Delors would defeat his conservative challengers. The poll by the Louis Harris Institute for the right-wing economic weekly Valeurs Actuelles said Mr. Delors would be elected in a second round runoff due in May by 53 per cent if pitted against neo-Gaullist Prime Minister Edouard Balladur (47 per cent).

## U.N. backs expanded Angola force if truce holds

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council Thursday renewed for two months an 80-member U.N. observer mission in Angola and welcomed plans to boost it to a previously authorised strength of about 500 if a ceasefire holds between the Angolan government and UNITA rebels. In a unanimous resolution, it also looked forward to a report by the end of January from Secretary-General Boutros Ghali with detailed plans for a much larger U.N. force, expected to number about 7,000, to help implement a peace agreement concluded last month by the two sides. The accord, signed in Lusaka, Zambia, on Nov. 20 after year-long negotiations, is designed to end 19 years of civil war between the Angolan government and UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola). A previous agreement, concluded in 1991, broke down after UNITA refused to accept defeat in U.N.-monitored elections the following year. This resulted in a resumption of fighting that was caused hundreds of thousands of casualties and widespread devastation, and led to a reduction of the U.N. mission to its present level. The Security Council, in its resolution, renewed until Feb. 8 the mandate of the current U.N. Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), comprising some 80 unarmed military observers, police and paramedics. It also welcomed a decision by Dr. Ghali, conveyed to the Council in a letter, that he intends to boost UNAVEM II's strength to a previously-authorized level of 350 military observers, 126 police and 14 military medical personnel, plus support staff. The secretary-general's U.N. special representative for Angola, Aloiune Blondin beye of Mali, told a news conference at the United Nations there had been no substantive breach of the ceasefire under last month's peace accord, despite some sporadic violations. He urged the deployment of additional U.N. observers, saying they would help consolidate the ceasefire. Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio De Moura, who addressed the Security Council before the vote, urged the establishment of "an adequate U.N. mechanism in Angola" — a force to be called UNAVEM III, capable of strictly monitoring the ceasefire and the withdrawal, disarming and demobilisation of UNITA's troops.

## Bosnian Serbs release more U.N. troops in softer stance

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers said Friday Bosnian Serbs had freed more of their detained soldiers in an apparent softening of their stance towards the international community seeking an end to the 32-month civil war. But the Serbs also showed their defiance of the U.N. and NATO by launching three missiles into the north-west Muslim enclave of Bihać Thursday night, although there were no reports of casualties. A spokesman for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Colonel Jan-Dirk Merveldt, said the Serbs had released 27 U.N. military observers and 40 French soldiers around Serb-held parts of Sarajevo. On Thursday, they released 55 Canadian peacekeepers held at Iljasi, near Sarajevo, leaving some 200 U.N. troops still detained of the 500 who were seized following NATO air raids on Serb targets last month. Rebel Serbs in Croatia, allies of their ethnic kin in Bosnia, also allowed the U.N. to send its first aid convoy to the Muslim enclave of Bihać in north-west Bosnia for two months, and another to resupply its hard-pressed garrison. The signs of a softening towards the U.N. mission, after weeks of harassment and humiliation of the peacekeepers by the Serbs, followed the weekend announcement by their leader Radovan Karadzic that he was prepared to reopen talks with a five-nation "contact group" on a peace plan rejected in the summer. The U.N. said Thursday that Serb missile batteries now covered at least 40 per cent of Bosnia, posing a direct challenge to NATO planes policing a "no-fly" zone over the former Yugoslav republic and providing close support for U.N. troops. The deterioration of the situation in Bosnia in recent weeks has prompted several Western governments to consider pulling out the 23,000 U.N. troops, who have been used primarily to monitor demarcation lines and escort aid convoys to civilians wholly dependent on outside help for survival. NATO, which was asked earlier this week to draw up contingency plans for a withdrawal, said Friday it was making progress, and confirmed it would lead such an operation. However NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes was quoted Friday as saying he had doubts about the possibility of such a pull-out because of the dangers it posed. Mr. Claes told the Belgian newspaper Le Soir that the pullout would be complicated and dangerous and could require sending in large numbers of heavily-armed troops to get them out. "I wonder therefore if a withdrawal is the right solution," he was quoted as saying. U.S. President Bill Clinton offered Thursday to provide thousands of combat troops to assist in any withdrawal, but senior U.S. government officials said they did not want the U.N. to leave Bosnia and did not believe such a move was imminent. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic also endorsed the United Nations mission and its humanitarian role in talks in Belgrade Thursday with U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi. "It is absolutely necessary that all factors in this region assist and support the U.N. mission," Mr. Milosevic said in a statement after the talks. Mr. Akashi also met leaders of rebel Serbs in Croatia, who control access to Bihać and blocked the latest convoys to the enclave for several hours Thursday, and they promised free passage of U.N. convoys through their territory. The release of the Canadian peacekeepers was welcomed Friday by UNPROFOR spokesman Thant Myint-U, but he noted that the U.N. still faced restrictions on its movements around the country and called for these to be lifted. He urged the Serbs in particular, to allow regular access to besieged Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia under U.N. protection, and to guarantee the safety of flights in and out of Sarajevo. The U.N., which controls the airport, was forced to suspend its aid airlift which keeps alive the capital's 350,000 inhabitants after the Serbs threatened retaliation for last month's NATO air strikes. Meanwhile, British Major General Rupert Smith will replace his fellow-countryman Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose as commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia when Gen. Rose's one-year term ends on Jan. 24, an officer at UNPROFOR headquarters in Zagreb confirmed Friday. An official announcement is expected within the next few days, according to the officer who requested anonymity. The New York Times reported earlier Friday that Gen. Smith would succeed Gen. Rose. Gen. Smith, 51, will head a force of 24,000 men and will take over at a time when France and Britain, the two principal contributors to the U.N. military presence, appear seriously to be contemplating withdrawing their troops.

## Rao party begins well as Indian states tally votes

NEW DELHI (R) — Four Indian states started counting votes Friday from recent assembly polls and initial results showed Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party with a slight advantage. The elections in the southern states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are crucial for Mr. Rao's leadership within the fractious Congress. The small states of Goa and Sikkim also voted for their state assemblies. All four states were ruled by Mr. Rao's Congress. Early results from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh showed Congress Party chief ministers leading with comfortable majorities, but it was still too early to say whether that advantage would stay with Mr. Rao's party. More than 60 per cent of the 75 million-strong electorate in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa and Sikkim states cast their votes in polls staggered over two weeks to allow heavy security forces to fan out. Vote counting began at 0230 GMT. The final results to be declared over the weekend. Politicians have said Mr. Rao's authority could suffer if, as many predict, his Congress Party is dealt a setback in the two biggest states, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. "The state polls will be a major pointer to the next important national agenda, the general elections," said Somnath Chatterjee, leader of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) in the lower house. General elections are set for 1996. The government denied a front-page report in a leading newspaper Friday that Mr. Rao may be suffering from lung and heart problems and had been advised to restrict his schedule.

## Chissano: Peace to stay in Mozambique

MAPUTO (R) — Joaquim Chissano, Mozambique's president since 1986, was sworn in for a new five-year term Friday with a pledge that peace would last in the war-weary southern African country. "This spectre of war has been removed. Peace has come to stay," he told a crowd of thousands in Maputo's Independence Square, among them his former civil war rival Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the main opposition RENAMO party. He also made a plea for reconciliation. "This is a time for us to continue healing all our wounds and overcome distrust. We must know how to begin a new relationship, without preconceptions and without rancour. We must bury forever our hatreds and renounce vindictiveness once and for all," he said. At Thursday's formal opening of parliament Mr. Chissano said the 16-year war between his ruling FRELIMO party and the former rebel RENAMO was over and now was the time for fruitful dialogue. Mr. Chissano won the October presidential poll with 53 per cent of the 5.4 million votes cast, against Mr. Dhlakama's 34 per cent.

## Murayama rules out early elections

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama Friday ruled out "for the time being" an early general election or cabinet reshuffle, saying Japan needed a period of stability to tackle pressing domestic and foreign issues. In a state-of-the-nation style news conference at the end of the 1994 parliamentary session, Mr. Murayama said his goals for next year were to draft an austerity budget and streamline Japan's bloated bureaucracy. "For the time being, I have no plans to dissolve parliament or reshuffle the cabinet," he said on the last day of the current 66-day session of parliament. Mr. Murayama said voters needed time to take in the drastic changes in Japan's political landscape, including the formation this week of the country's newest and largest opposition group, the New Frontier Party (NFP). The NFP, combining nine opposition parties, elected former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu as its leader Thursday, with powerbroker Ichiro Ozawa as deputy. The party will be formally launched in an inaugural convention Saturday. It will be the second largest party in parliament behind the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), part of Socialist Prime Minister Murayama's coalition government. "We cannot afford a political vacuum at a time of mounting domestic and foreign issues," Mr. Murayama said in ruling out early elections or government changes. He did not elaborate on the foreign issues facing his government. Elections need not be called until 1997 but most political analysts believe polls could be held as early as next year. Mr. Murayama urged fellow Socialists not to split the party in favour of a new "pacifist, liberal" party, as some of them have suggested. "The important thing is that the entire Socialist Party moves towards such a political force," he said. "Faction-based" moves are not the way to do it and most of the party is basically in agreement over this. Rightwingers have threatened to quit the Socialist Party to form a new third political force in the face of a slowly emerging two-party system of rival conservative parties. Mr. Murayama paid tribute to his coalition partners, the LDP and the small Sakigake Party, for their help in getting four major bills passed during the session. They include the GATT world trade treaty, political reforms, a tax overhaul and a long-pending plan to compensate victims of the 1945 atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On the next fiscal year's budget beginning in April, Mr. Murayama vowed he would make no exceptions in cutting spending. "We are bound to seek an austerity budget because we are suffering from three years of tax revenue shortfalls. I will drastically seek cuts in all forms of spending." The government bill, to be adopted on Dec. 25, would be sent to parliament when the forum reconvenes in late January. The total 1994/95 state budget totalled 73.08 trillion yen (\$730 billion). In another bid to cut costs, Mr. Murayama promised action on streamlining government bureaucracy, especially the abolition of outdated government-affiliated public corporations. Mr. Murayama said his government would adopt a comprehensive, five-year deregulation plan by the end of March that will aim to reduce government control of distribution and other business activities. The Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), a medium-sized party formed 35 years ago, dissolved itself Friday to join the New Frontier Party, an alliance gathering all of Japan's non-Communist opposition groups. Of the party's 26 MPs and senators, 24 DSP members have said they will join the new alliance, while the remaining two have said they will continue in parliament as independents. The New Frontier, which will be inaugurated Saturday, gathers 10 parties and political groups. The DSP was a member of the seven-party governing coalition of Prime Ministers Morihiro Hosokawa and Tsutomu Hata, which ruled from August 1993 to June this year. It is distinct from the Social Democratic Party headed by the current premier, Tomichi Murayama, which has joined in a coalition with the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake, also known as the Pioneer Party.

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## JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

# Peace with Israel — no other choice for the Kingdom

By Dr. Musa Kellani

GEOPOLITICAL AND strategic imperatives coupled with economic considerations were behind Jordan's move to enter a peace treaty with Israel ahead of its Arab partners, Syria and Lebanon, which remain deadlocked in their track of negotiations with Israel.

The signing of the peace treaty in a solemn ceremony site straddling the Jordanian-Israeli desert border in south near the Red Sea port of Aqaba on Oct. 25 marked totally new beginning for Jordan whose very existence often brought to question over the past 46 years.

Peace or war with Israel had always been a strategic preoccupation of Arab countries. But unlike all other Arab states, it was not a foreign policy issue for Jordan; it was very much a "domestic policy" issue because of the Palestinian content in the Jordanian population and Jordanian role in the West Bank until Israel occupied territory in the 1967 wars.

Under the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, Israel, for the first time since it was created in 1948, accepted that eastern borders are with Jordan as opposed to multinationalist Zionists' view that the state of Israel extends to the Euphrates River, an area that would include all of Jordan and part of Iraq.

Far-fetched and isolated from reality as that theory may be, fears always ran high in Jordan that Israel, ranked in world military might, could invade it and bring about imposed solution to the Palestinian problem at Jordan's expense, by declaring the Kingdom the "Palestinian homeland."

As late as 1990, Israel's dominant Likud Party was advocate of the "Jordan is Palestine" theory. Jordan had to do something to do away with this thinking. Its effort to achieve this goal have been going on since 1950 when it announced a union between the East and West banks of the River Jordan.

Fuelling the Jordanian fears were also signs that some of the extremist right-wing Palestinian shared the Likud views.

It is essential that the course of history be examined before an assessment be made on the impact of the peace treaty on Jordan.

A closer look at the various factors that prompted Jordan to take the risk of being labelled treacherous by signing separate peace treaty with Israel without waiting for Syria and Lebanon would indicate several key points that influenced King Hussein.

Jordan, surrounded by giant and powerful neighbours, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel, always resorted to two-track approach to ensure its survival: a partnership with a strong regional power and an alliance with external power. The Kingdom's relations with Egypt under Jamal Abdul Nasser during the 1960s, with Syria in mid-70s and with Iraq during the 80s were and should be seen as the manifestations of its desire to have a regional ally.

On the external front, Jordan established an excellent relationship with the United States in the 60s and maintained it until 1979 when the ties became a little strained because of King Hussein's refusal to join the Camp David peace agreement between Egypt and Israel.

While Washington seemed to understand the contradiction that turned Jordan away from Camp David despite King Hussein's keen desire to enter peace with Israel, American-Jordanian relations were cool after the Egyptian-Israeli agreement.

Seeing its alliance with the U.S. fade away, King Hussein turned to Europe and built strong links with most members of the European Union. Foremost among them is Germany which contributed \$429 million in loans and subsidies to the Kingdom. He also sought to cement a new relationship with the then Soviet Union and bought Russian air defence equipment in 1987 after Washington turned down an application for the Kingdom.

Jordanian-European relations improved considerably during the 1980s at the expense of the American-Jordanian alliance, and Washington sought to bring King Hussein back into the U.S. orbit through new peace initiatives drawn largely from the Camp David agreements. But always linked better relations with Jordan to King Hussein's acceptance of a political compromise with Israel, something Jordan could ill afford, given that its representative status was diluted and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was recognised by the Arab World and the international community as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Any Jordanian move to make unilateral peace with Israel

without the PLO, meaning the realisation of the Palestinian quest to liberate the West Bank and Gaza Strip and setting up a state there, would have inevitably led to serious internal problems in the Kingdom, whose population included many Palestinians who always harboured hopes of returning to their homeland.

Having made little headway with new peace initiatives in the early 80s, the U.S. sought to bring new warmth to its relations with Jordan in the 80s by increasing aid to the resource-poor Kingdom. But before the efforts could bear fruit, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 not only brought about a total halt to the American approach to Jordan but also led Washington politically to isolate Jordan, whose refusal to join the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq was misunderstood as support for the invasion itself.

The Europeans also distanced themselves from Jordan, leaving a serious vacuum in King Hussein's strategy of maintaining alliance with international powers as part of the defensive shield of the Kingdom.

As the international coalition waged war and evicted Iraq from Kuwait in early 1991, and went about systematically to ensure that Iraq would not reemerge as a strong regional power for the foreseeable future, Jordan also found itself deprived of the key regional ally it was counting on.

King Hussein could not turn to Syria's Hafez Al Assad. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd or Egypt's Hosni Mubarak to come, from the Jordanian perspective, the vacant slot, since Jordan's relations with all the three were seriously strained as a result of misreading Jordan's position during the crisis.

Indeed, it was a God-send gift for Jordan when the Bush administration launched a new Arab-Israeli peace initiative in mid-1991. King Hussein was the first Arab leader to join the initiative. The monarch, obviously finding the initiative an opportunity to improve ties with the U.S. and, at the same time, also influenced PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to join the peace process that was eventually launched with an international conference in Madrid, Spain, in October 1991.

Jordan and the PLO attended the Madrid conference as a joint delegation and, along with Syria and Lebanon, launched separate tracks of negotiations with Israel. Little progress was visible in the peace process, although it was clear that Jordan and Israel could have solved their problems and made peace at a much faster pace than all others. But deadlock after deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian track continued to hold back Jordan from getting ahead in its track of negotiations.

However, when the PLO opted to go on its own and negotiate a secret deal with Israel, away from media spotlight and without coordinating with any of its Arab partners, Jordan found itself free from the self-imposed constraints. As such, it signed an agenda with Israel outlining the key points of a peace agreement on Sept. 14, 1994, one day after the PLO and Israel formalised their interim autonomy deal at the White House.

In fact, the Israel-PLO autonomy accord effectively ended Jordan to pursue its own course of action since, for practical and technical purposes, the PLO had taken over the decision-making process of the Palestinians.

Again, Jordan waited until the Palestinians launched autonomy in parts of the occupied territories before moving ahead in its track. In June, one month after the PLO and Israel signed another accord on modalities of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, Jordan moved their negotiations to the Middle East summit in Washington and in July, King Hussein met with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and issued the Washington declaration, ending the 46-year state of belligerence between them and accelerating the pace of peace talks.

Subsequently, the two sides worked out the peace treaty, signed it on Oct. 26 and formally exchanged the documents in ratification of the treaty on Nov. 10.

In terms of its rights, Jordan gained the return of territory that Israel had occupied since 1948 and 1968 and the acceptance of a fair formula for sharing the water resources of the region. But the Kingdom's diplomatic, political and economic gains are much more significant. The very fact that it was the PLO which took unilateral steps without Arab coordination vindicates and justifies Jordan's decision to make peace with Israel.

For all technical purposes, the PLO, in its capacity as the

sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people took responsibility for its own actions, and Jordan could not be blamed for the consequences of the PLO's decision and actions, according to Jordanian thinking. In other words, if the PLO fails to realise the Palestinian aspiration for independent statehood, then it should be the PLO's leadership that should be held accountable, not Jordan.

By extension, it meant that King Hussein is in a position to tell his Palestinian subjects to turn to PLO chairman Arafat for their political rights on Palestinian land but to behave as Jordanian citizens with all that such status entails as long as they remain on Jordanian land.

On the regional front, the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty effectively ended the political isolation that Jordan faces since the Gulf crisis. The pre-crisis warmth in Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait has not been restored yet, but it is only a matter of time now, given the influence that the U.S. wields with the Gulf states. Jordan could now be counted as one of the strong Arab countries in the region.

It was also clear to the rest of the Arab World that Syria was articulating its own terms for peace with Israel and that if the decision had been left to Damascus, Jordan would have found itself under the Syrian political domination of which King Hussein has had ample experience during the mid-70s when Jordanian-Syrian relations were at their peak. No need to lag behind.

Despite all assurances and pledges from Syria about not breaking Arab ranks, Jordan was also fearful that its track of negotiations with Israel would be abandoned if Syria were to accept any of the U.S.-mediated Israeli proposals before the Kingdom managed to address its concerns with Israel.

In such a course of events, the focus would have shifted entirely to the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations and Jordan would have been sidelined until Syria and Israel worked out a peace accord. That would have also meant weakening of the Jordanian bargaining position.

By the same token, Syria's joining the peace bandwagon would have also meant another claimant to the economic benefits of peace, another key consideration behind Jordan's decision to enter the treaty with Israel.

With an economy burdened by a nearly \$7 billion foreign debt and denied an infusion of significant aid, Jordan had few options but to rebuild its bridges with the West. Beyond that, mindful of the generous aid the U.S. gave Egypt and Israel as a reward for their Camp David agreement, the Kingdom also saw a peace accord with Israel as one of the means to address its economic woes.

Besides, there was Jordan's awareness that its geopolitical location in the great land-bridge between Europe and Asia qualified it to play a major role in regional economic if it could offer the right ingredients to attract foreign investment — a key element any move to address unemployment and poverty.

King Hussein and his heir apparent, Crown Prince Hassan, have repeatedly affirmed that peace would not be sustainable unless the man on the street felt an improvement in living standards and the emergence of a new political and economic environment which allows free enterprise and "optimisation" of the human potential for development. An improvement in living standards and addressing the problems of poverty and unemployment are the key factor Jordan sees as the effective to the strong opposition to the peace treaty put by Muslim fundamentalist and leftist parties in the country.

It is true that many of the Palestinian living in Jordan found solace in the rhetoric of the anti-peace groups, particularly the Islamic Action Front, Jordan's strongest Muslim fundamentalist group.

But resignation of accepting the inevitability of peace with Israel rather than pursuing a confrontational approach is the dominant feeling among Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

Recent opinion poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan found that 8 per cent of Jordanians supported the peace treaty, but also that the support could wane unless peace was accompanied by economic benefits for the people.

The stage for international aid and foreign investment in Jordan was set at a conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, Oct. 30 - Nov. 1. Amman will host a follow-up conference in mid-1995, when it is hoped that some of the \$18 billion worth of projects that Jordan presented in Casablanca could be advanced in terms of financing needs.

## Link in chain of rights

JORDAN HOSTS today yet another forum on human rights under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent. Entitled "Rights and Humanity," and organised by the Institute of Diplomacy and the International Movement of Rights and Humanity, the meeting will serve as a sign of this country's continued commitment to a more responsible and balanced promotion and protection of human rights. Crown Prince Hassan's statement to the participants will help set the tone for the deliberations that are expected to scan the lingering divergent perspectives about human rights across the world. The new High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ayala Lasso, will also address the gathering as a symbol of the international concern about how best to promote those rights worldwide.

The underlying purpose of the conference is to encourage multi-faith and multi-cultural roundtable discussions on human rights in view of the difficulties that some religions and cultures have encountered in meeting their obligations under the various international treaties and conventions. At stake is of course the universality of human rights, a concept the Vienna World Conference made a daring attempt to define and impose on all cultures and religions last year. The Vienna conference's recommendations about the universality of basic human rights remain contested by many countries whose religion or culture is at odds with some of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ensuing covenants that codified these principles into legally binding provisions.

Against this backdrop, today's roundtable conference on rights and humanity would be making yet another determined effort to bridge the existing gap between the current perspectives by promoting a more effective understanding of the differences of views still entertained by Islamic societies on human rights in general. No doubt discrimination on the basis of gender and freedom of religion would highlight the debate in view of the Islamic principled position on some aspects of these issues. The debate on these and other related subjects would therefore enrich the ongoing efforts to promote human rights to the extent that a more enlightened awareness and appreciation of the differences between countries on the issue is realised.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i daily attributed the deadlock in reaching agreement between Israel and Syria to Israel's adamant stands which are influenced by domestic affairs. Mohammed Kharroub said that the Rabin government is facing stiff resistance on the part of the Likud opposition against any withdrawal from the Golan and is witnessing splits within the ranks of the Labour Party itself over this issue. Furthermore, Mr. Rabin is ruling with a minority in parliament and is in dire need for expanding the base of his coalition and trying to win the favour of the smaller parties and listening to their views some of which oppose the idea of withdrawals from the Golan, said the writer. Kharroub said that Yitzhak Rabin is treading very carefully on this matter lest a blunder or miscalculation could have adverse effects on the outcome of the coming parliamentary elections in Israel. For its part, Damascus is taking time to think matters over and has all the right to tick to its demands for a full withdrawal in exchange for full peace with Israel, said the writer. He said that the Syrians are watching to see whether the Israelis would keep their promises and make real advances towards peace in light of their agreements with Jordan and the Palestinians before committing themselves to peace with the Jewish state.

MOHAMMAD DAUD, a writer in Al Dustour called on the concerned authorities to refrain from issuing licences for more universities in Jordan. The country abounds with private universities which turn out thousands of people who cannot find employment, said Mohammad Daoud. The writer said that many of the private institutions are operating on a purely commercial basis and are not concentrating their efforts towards promoting higher education but are seeking immediate profits and charging exorbitant fees. The majority of Jordanians cannot afford to pay the very high fees charged by these private universities whose main aim, he charged, is to make profits. The writer said that the Ministry of Higher Education ought to conduct a survey and examine the real situation and the actual needs of various districts of higher educational institutions before allowing investors to carry out university projects. At least, he said, the ministry can wait for several years to study and to examine the situation and the results in the present universities before issuing new licences.

## Israel proves intent on perpetuating presence in Arab territories

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press gave prominence in the past week to Israel's practices in the occupied Arab lands, the prospects of the peace process and domestic affairs.

Nawaf Zaru, a columnist in Al Dustour, accused Israel of pursuing efforts to consolidate its hold on the occupied Palestinian lands by opening highways to link the Jewish settlements and by taking measures to ensure the safety of their residents whose presence in the Arab lands will, under Israel's plan, continue to defy the Arab rights and feelings.

The writer said that the huge highways under construction are also intended to encircle the Arab towns and population settlements in a carefully planned military plot to continue the process of subjugating the Arab population.

Instead of showing its readiness to withdraw from the occupied lands as provided for in the peace agreements with the Palestinians, the Israelis are intent on perpetuating their presence in Arab territories, said the writer.

Mohammad Subeili, a columnist in Al Dustour, criticised statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in which he said Islamic fundamentalism constituted a grave danger to the Middle East peace.

The writer said that Mr. Peres has cited the actions of Islamists in Gaza, Lebanon and Algeria to support

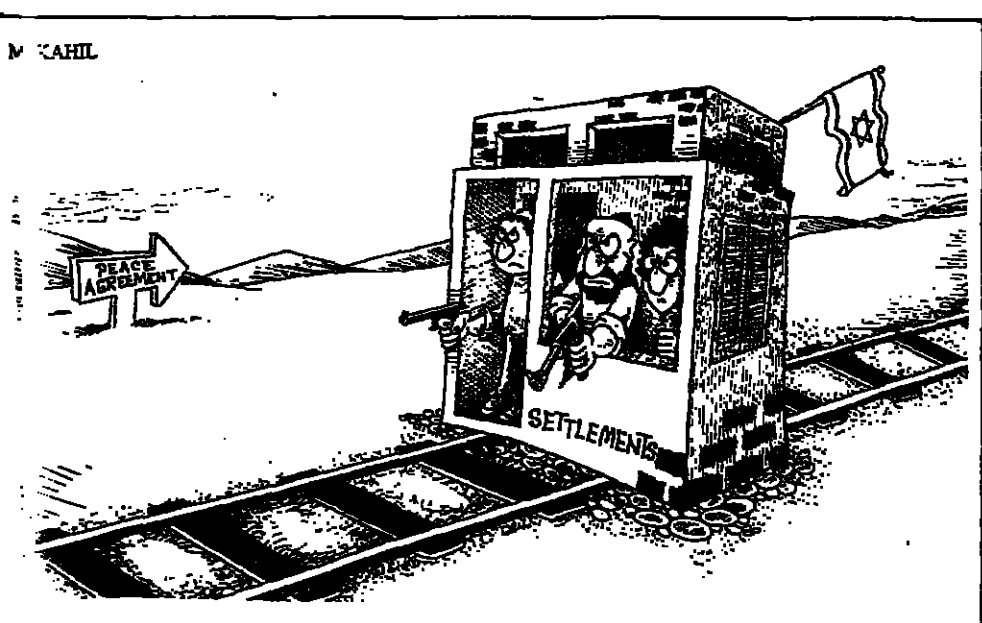
his views and to set the world against the Arab Muslim people.

But Mr. Peres has overlooked the actions of Zionist terrorists and Jewish settlers who have been pioneers in acts of terror and who commit atrocities against the Palestinians.

One example of the Jewish settlers' terrorism, the writer, is the massing of scores of Muslim worshippers in Al Ibrahim Mosque of Hebron in February.

Hamadeh Faraaneh, a columnist in Al Dustour, wondered how peace could be achieved when, despite the Palestinians-Israeli agreements, thousands of Palestinian youth remain in Israeli jails. How can peace be achieved with any Arab states as long as dreads of thousands of Arabs are still banned from returning to their homes in Palestine? he asked. How can peace be established in word and deed as long as the Israeli authorities maintain mass punishment against the Arab population? asked Faraaneh. He said that Israel is showing no sign of relenting in opening the door for a genuine peaceful era with the Arab population.

Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, referred to Crown Prince Hassan's recent talks with the European Union leaders, saying that they aimed at ensuring Europe's partnership in the peace-making process and



financing the reconstruction process in our region. The Israelis counted all the past decades in U.S. financial, economic and military assistance while the Arabs remained in the dark, not acquiring any meaningful help from the Europeans.

Now that Jordan has signed a peace treaty with Israel, the Europeans should promptly react by offering the Kingdom all the help it requires to meet its commitments of the peace era, said the writer. Heh Al Qallab, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher failed to bridge the gap between Israel and Syria over a settlement and chose to cover up for this failure by blaming the Palestinians

for the lack of what he called real progress in their peace talks with the Israelis.

To cover up for his failure to reach a Syrian-Israeli settlement, Mr. Christopher chose to blame the Palestine National Authority (PNA) for what he claimed was its failure to ensure security for the Israelis and the Jewish settlements, said Qallab.

The writer said the U.S. secretary realises that the PNA was doing all it could to control the security situation and that the Israelis are finding a pretext in resistance activities outside the self-rule areas to perpetuate their presence on Arab land. He added that Mr. Christopher's statements can by no means contribute to any

progress in the aspired peace process.

Referring to the resignation of Deputy Premier Thouqan Hindawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said it was motivated by the failure on the part of the government to handle the chronic domestic issues in a satisfactory manner.

Sultan Al Hattab said that individual ministers cannot be blamed for the failure but rather the whole team of Cabinet ministers who should have worked in unison to deal with many social and economic ills.

The writer said the resignation now opens the way for a new government reshuffle or a new government to take over.

There is no doubt that Mr. Hindawi's resignation

has opened the door to many rumours and speculations about the government's next moves, said Mohammad Kawah, a columnist in Al Dustour.

The writer said that the resignation dealt a hard blow to the government which needs every backing at the moment when Parliament is debating the 1995 budget.

Fakhri Kwar, a columnist in Shihab, criticised a reported statement by the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Saad Haye Srour, in which he was reported to have said that the Parliament was losing credibility because of the many interviews Parliament members give to the press, airing their views about the situation in the country.

It is the right of the deputies to assert their opinions any way they like, because they live in democracy, said Kwar. Parliament has already lost part of its freedom by being forced to accept and approve the peace treaty with Israel and the deputies should not be deprived of the right to air their views at least outside Parliament about the general political, economic and social affairs, said the writer.

A writer in Al Ra'i criticised the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) for suspending telephone services to homes of 18,000 subscribers at a time when the Kingdom was affected by a snowstorm when citizens normally need the telephone service for emergencies.



# Carmakers' dream becomes Asia's traffic nightmare

**By Sharon Singleton**  
*Reuter*

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## Saudi Arabia cuts spending by another 20%

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is to reduce its public spending by another 20 per cent next year as it grapples with an economic crisis triggered by a fall in oil revenues and the bill from the Gulf war.

King Fahd, in a speech reported Friday, said: "We cut this year's budget by 20 per cent and we are going to reduce it by another 20 per cent."

The details of the reduction will be contained in the 1995 budget to be published later this month.

The king acknowledged that his country was facing treasury difficulties but blamed it on the bill for financing the 1991 Gulf war estimated at more than \$50 billion, of which a part has still to be paid.

A U.S. military expert based in Riyadh told AFP that "the Saudis are being forced more and more to tighten their belts to stop the collapse of their economy and halt an increasing slump in business."

"A number of the country's sectors are feeling the weight of the economic crisis and hundreds of businesses are complaining of difficulties in payments," he added refusing to be named.

He warned the difficulties could hit the "Saudi oil and petrochemicals industry which finance more than 80 per cent of the state budget."

Saudi Arabia cut expenditure from around \$52.53 billion in 1993 to \$42.66 billion this year.

The unprecedented cash crisis in the country, the world's biggest oil producer and exporter, has been linked to the fall in crude prices.

It drove the government to cut its 1994 budget by 20 per cent following years of running a deficit, and to privatise some public services.

A banker working in Saudi Arabia said that the government has been "forced to take out bank loans to honour its commitments to several foreign firms."

However, King Fahd sought to contain fears saying "the Saudi economy is not unstable." "Our currency is 100 per cent guaranteed, and our reserves are secure," he stressed.

But he added the economic crisis could last a few more years. "In two or three years we will no longer need anybody, we shall be self-sufficient and we shall have a very solid budget," he said.

The U.S. expert said "the Saudis may be forced in the near future to set up a tax system but it will have a negative effect on the foreign workforce."

The United States, which has major arms and other contracts with Saudi Arabia, recently called on the government to cut spending, drop state subsidies and diversify its industry, in order to contain the deficit.

The foreign debt is about \$70 billion and Riyadh has asked Washington to delay repayments on two major contracts signed in September worth some \$70 billion.

## Japan's service prices much higher than in U.S. and S. Korea

TOKYO (AFP) — Industrial service prices in Japan, such as real estate and transportation, are 1.63 times higher than in the United States and 5.67 times higher than in South Korea, a government report has showed.

Prices of raw materials and other industrial goods were 1.14 times higher in Japan than in the United States, and 1.41 times higher in South Korea, according to the trade and industry minister's monitoring in the six months to September.

Compared with Germany, Japanese service prices were 1.72 times higher and industrial goods prices were up 1.03 times.

The price gaps reflect the stronger yen, high labour costs, rigid government regulations and exclusive business practices in Japan.

They said the gaps were causing many Japanese

manufacturers to shift production bases abroad, while companies are turning to foreign countries to get service.

The ministry surveyed prices of 91 industrial goods and 17 services.

Prices of oil and coal products were 2.50 times higher in Japan than in the United States and those of gas and electricity were 1.70 times higher.

Some products, however, were cheaper in Japan. Prices were 0.61 times of the U.S. Prices for precision instruments and 0.82 times for chemical products.

In comparison with South Korea, real estate prices were as much as 16.9 per cent higher in Japan.

With Germany, financial and insurance service prices were 2.54 times higher and real estate prices were up 2.97 times.

## DM/USD rate expected in the 1.50- 1.60 range

### Currency Outlook

#### Overview

**Fundamental View:** The rapid flattening of the U.S. yield curve and the rise of the dollar in recent weeks suggest increased confidence among investors that the Fed is serious about slowing the economy and will take whatever action needed in coming quarters to slow economic growth to under 2.5 per cent. Following Fed's 75-basis point rate hike in mid-November, we recently changed our forecast towards a neutral view of the dollar against European currencies, the centre of gravity for the DM/USD rate expected to be in the DM/USD 1.50-1.60 range for the next 12 months. A move toward tighter monetary policy in Germany sometime next year is likely to keep the dollar from rallying strongly against the Deutschmark.

We have not changed our forecast for the dollar against the yen, which has typically been far less sensitive to interest rate developments than the European currencies. We continue to expect that the reluctance of Japanese investors to finance the nation's current account surplus will bring further upward pressure on the yen in 1995, and look for yen to trade at JPY/USD 122 in 12 months.

**Technical View:** The week ended Dec. 2 saw the U.S. dollar index post week-to-week gains for the sixth consecutive time. The index has not put together rally of this length since the summer of 1991. Last week's gain came at the expense of the European currencies and the Japanese yen; the greenback fell against both the Australian and Canadian dollars. Most importantly, the index is challenging 89.00-91.00 resistance and, therefore, the underlying post-February downturn.

With medium momentum still constructive, higher highs appear indicated. However, short term momentum appears overbought and deteriorating. Moreover, sentiment for the dollar, while not excessive, is deteriorating noticeably. This suggests that a pullback (within the rally trend) may be imminent.

We are inclined to raise first support against the 88.00 area on the premise that a break of that level would be a good sign a correction is under way; benchmark support exists at 84.91.

#### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** The dollar has moved up to the JPY/USD 100 level in recent days, boosted by improved sentiment towards the dollar following the Republican victory in U.S. mid-term elections and the Fed's larger-than-expected 75 basis point rate hike on Nov. 15. A spate of strong U.S. economic reports recently has also given the dollar a boost by implying that still more Fed tightening will be needed next year.

Another potential positive for the dollar is that U.S. capital outflows could begin to slow as U.S. mutual fund investments slow or reverse their purchase of mutual funds and begin to keep their money close to home in the form of CDs.

All of these factors may convince current speculators to borrow yen to buy dollars, which could give the dollar a

further boost in the near term. However, we still think that any potential dollar rally against the yen is likely to be short-lived because of the reluctance of Japanese investors to finance trade deficits of the U.S. and dollar-linked currencies. Net private capital outflows from Japan continue to run far below the nation's current account surplus. So even though the surplus is beginning to contract, downward pressure on the dollar could persist for some time.

Expectations of our economists in Tokyo that the Bank of Japan raise interest rates by 100 basis points over the next year are also a potential negative for the dollar, as are concerns that U.S. politics could turn highly confrontational next year as Republican's revisit Whitewater related investigations. We continue to expect the dollar to trade as low JPY/USD 92 yen over the next 6-10-12 months.

**Technical View:** The Japanese yen fell 1.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Dec. 2 and was the weakest of the six major currencies we regularly discuss. Sentiment has begun to improve but is still viewed as neutral. While the currency has only marginally broken down from a trading range that has been in force since July, it has decisively moved below the post-February uptrend channel.

Momentum is still only neutral, but appears have the potential to have a downward bias for perhaps two more months. This would suggest an upcoming penetration of 100-101 ¥/U.S.\$ support, a move would set the stage for further weakness to 105-107. With the above mind, resistance at 96-97 takes on added significance.

#### Deutschmark

**Fundamental View:** The dollar was little changed in the last week, continuing to trade near DM/USD 1.57. It looks increasingly likely that the dollar has bottomed against the mark now that the Fed's inflation fighting credibility appears to have been restored. For most of this year, markets have regarded the Fed as being "behind the curve" on inflation and consequently investors preferred to hold marks rather than dollars. Market participants now seem inclined to believe that the Fed means business in its turn towards a more restrictive monetary policy.

Due to this sea-change in sentiment, we recently revised our outlook for the dollar-mark exchange rate from being negative to the dollar versus the mark to having a neutral stance. An important wild for the dollar is whether or not the massive amounts of capital outflows have left the U.S. in search of higher returns—largely via mutual funds—slow or reverse in the next year as bank deposit rates here in the U.S. rise. If outflows slow, as expected, the dollar should stabilize. If capital outflows actually reverse as Americans try to repatriate their foreign investments, the dollar could conceivably rally further. That said, it should not help the dollar if the Bundesbank begins to tighten monetary policy next year, as we expect. And recent concerns about systemic problems in the U.S. financial system tied to derivatives losses cannot be viewed as a plus for the dollar.

For the time being, we maintain a neutral stance and expect the dollar with a centre of gravity in the DM/USD

1.55-1.60 range over the next 12 months.

**Technical View:** The Deutschmark declined 1.3 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and has begun to move below the post-February uptrend channel. Sentiment is improving, and is now near oversold levels. Momentum is moving towards neutral, and still seems to have the potential to remain under pressure well into 1995. These points suggest that a potentially important medium term top is in place.

Although the 1.58 DM/U.S.\$ level still has to be monitored, further weakness through 1.595 would lay the groundwork for a move towards 1.68. Benchmark resistance remains at 1.486, but there is now intervening resistance at 1.544-1.547. Against the yen, the D-mark gained 0.6 per cent last week. Medium term oscillators remain under pressure, suggesting a potential test of the lows of the long term trading range. That range generates support at 60, with resistance above 66.50.

#### Pound sterling

**Fundamental View:** The British pound rose on news that the Bank of England raised the base lending rate today, up 50 basis points to 6.25 per cent. The pound rose against the mark and the dollar. And increase in rates of this magnitude was widely anticipated to occur sometime in December or January as a preemptive move against inflation. Underlying inflation -retail price inflation less mortgage interest payments- is currently only 2 per cent, the lowest level in 27 years.

However, real GDP rose 4.2 per cent in the third quarter following a 4.1 per cent increase in the second quarter and growth for 1994 should average 3.7 per cent. With very little spare capacity left in the U.K., inflation is likely to begin picking up soon and we expect base rates over the next year to be increased by another 100 basis points to 7.25 per cent.

However, we also expect that the U.S. will continue to tighten monetary policy while Germany is expected to shift to a less accommodative stance by pushing up its key repo rate by the middle of next year. Based on our neutral outlook for the mark-dollar exchange rate, we expect the pound to trade near USD/GBP 1.58 and DM/GBP 2.45 in 12-month's — not that different from the current level. However, in the interim we think there is scope for pound weakness against both of these currencies.

**Technical View:** The British pound lost 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Dec. 2. Sentiment continues to improve and is neutral. Momentum is reversing to the downside, and the currency has been testing 1.57 U.S.\$/£ support. With further weakness still likely in coming weeks, the rally appears complete and suggests a continued decline towards \$1.52-\$1.55. The 1993-1994 base generates support as low as \$1.46. Resistance remains at \$1.643.

Against the DM, sterling gained 1.1 per cent week. Still, there are initial signs of momentum deterioration, and the inability to rally through 2.44-2.48 in coming weeks could suggest an imminent medium term peak support exists at 2.38-2.41.

## Nigerian inflation spirals after fuel price hike

LAGOS (R) — A big increase in fuel prices has let loose inflation in Nigeria, economists said.

"Observers are at pains to quantify the level of domestic inflation particularly with the recent adjustment in prices of petroleum products coupled with the enormous deterioration in infrastructure," the Financial Post journal said.

Before the price of petrol was increased to 11 naira a litre in October from 3.25 naira and those of other fuel products such as diesel and kerosene similarly, inflation was officially estimated to be running at under 60 per cent.

The Federal Office of Statistics put inflation in August at 56.3 per cent although independent sources believe it was higher.

"But since the increase in fuel prices everything has gone haywire," a senior official of the department said.

Market surveys by Nigerian newspapers show that prices of many items, includ-

ing food, have doubled.

The surveys showed prices of foodstuffs, soap and detergents, and building materials have risen by between 80 to 100 per cent since the fuel price hike, compounding the plight of millions of already poor Nigerians.

"The situation is just unbearable," housewife Ronke Idowu said. "Many homes will not survive this for long because already there is a lot of quarrelling over house-keeping money," she added.

The price of services, especially transport, has also risen steeply. The surveys showed public transport fares had doubled and a worker commuting to central Lagos from the outskirts now spends about 120 naira (\$5.4) a day.

"Government workers, who are among the poorest paid people in Nigeria, appear worst hit. A junior grade civil servant earns 1,200 naira (\$55) a month, less than half the cost of a 50 kilogramme bag of rice.

Nigeria's military government is negotiating increases in allowances with the unions but so far there is no indication how much cushion these would provide.

However, it is expected that the government will further raise fuel prices although Oil Minister Don Etebet has denied this.

Economists say apart from the fuel price hike, a steep decline in the value of the naira in the officially banned but a thriving foreign ex-

change black market was also helping stoke inflation.

Nigeria relies heavily on food and raw material imports and official foreign exchange has not been enough to meet demand. Autonomous sources have dried up because of the 22 naira to the dollar rate of exchange fixed by Fiat in January.

In the black market, the dollar is exchanging for 90 naira, making the cost of imported items beyond the reach of many.

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## THE BETTER HALF

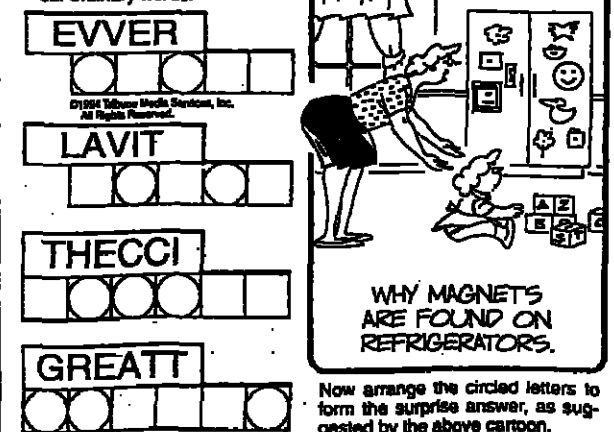
By Glasbergen



"I gave you all my raisins. It's not the most romantic thing I've ever done, but it's not bad for 7:00 AM!"

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: THEY'RE

Yesterday's Jumbles: ACUTE BAKED FORBID UNSEAT  
Answer: What the fired manager of the quaint Inn looked forward to — BED AND BREAKFAST

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1994

By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Don't entangle yourself in some private worry that distracts you from success in a pending business activity that is moving forward at a rapid pace under today's three positive moon aspects.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have to be tactful at home, but outside associates are very cooperative. Do not transmute the evening or you and your loved ones could have problems.

**Taurus:** (April 20 to May 20) That problem with an associate has to be considered seriously, but get many assignments completed in the interim.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Handle that monetary affairs with tact in the morning. Come to a fine understanding with close friends and associates over some project.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't listen to what a newcomer has dreamed up. Make a plan to gain your finest wishes. State your aims and desires to your mate.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Good friends can bring you real progress on an assignment during the day. Steer clear of a hard-to-handle business deal which could cause you problems.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Avoid a difficult associate who likes to irritate you. Get a higher-up to give you the help you need towards completing a complex assignment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Handling an out-of-town matter wisely can bring you fine benefits, but don't work yourself into a frenzy. This is a day for expansion.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) It is important you handle duties well and forego pleasure for the time being so you can have a real progress. Be kind and thoughtful towards mate.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Avoid an unpleasant discussion at home, and try to improve an outside relationship which is important to your welfare and well being.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Forget that temptation to run off on a trip since you have many obligations to meet at this time and it would be foolish on your part.

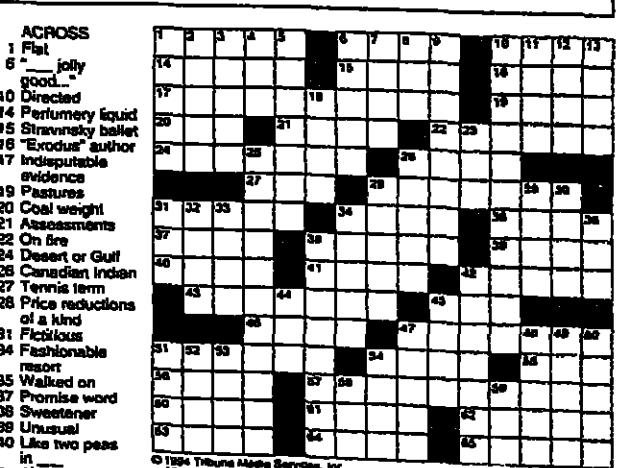
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Put financial affairs aside for now and get out, have yourself a ball with close friends and relieve the tension and stress you are under.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Listen to suggestions of those who live with you since your judgment is not very good today. Act with care and be happy with your loved ones.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

## THE Daily Crossword

by Gerald R. Ferguson

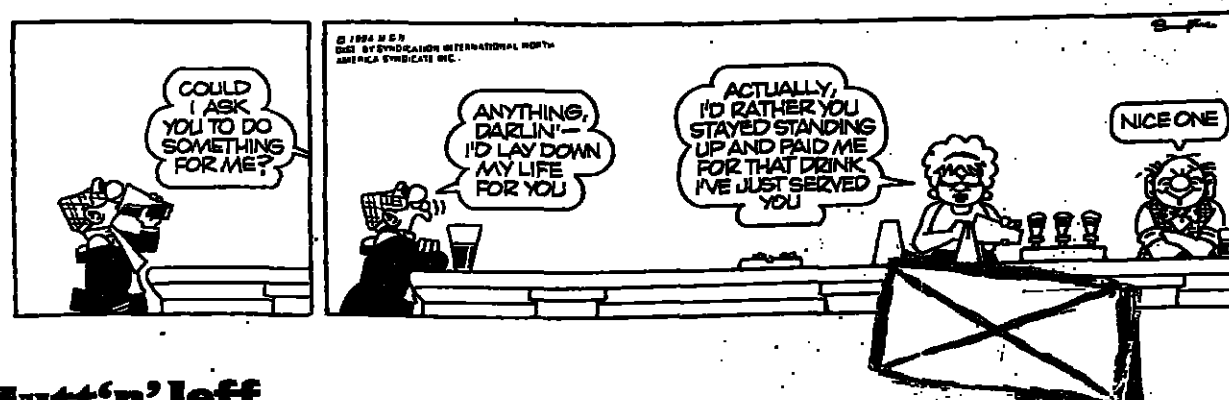


**ACROSS**  
1 Full  
6 jolly  
10 Directed  
14 Perfumery liquid  
15 Stravinsky ballet  
16 "Ecstasy" author  
17 Indisputable evidence  
19 Pasture  
20 Coal weight  
21 Measurements  
22 On fire  
24 Desert or Gulf  
25 Canadian Indian  
27 Tennis term  
28 Price reductions  
31 Fictitious  
34 Fashionable meat  
35 Walked on  
37 Promise word  
38 Sweetener  
39 Unusual  
40 Like two peas  
41 Almond-pool-bath  
42 Photo finish  
43 Onomatopoeic  
45 Tail  
46 Paper Nolen  
47 Reaps  
51 Seven Against  
54 Vehicle  
55 After expenses  
56 African mammal  
57 Gun  
60 Building cheers  
61 Rainbow  
62 I.O. gher  
63 Without  
64 The Big  
65 Supervise  
**DOWN**  
1 Peace Corps kin  
2 Chain mail, e.g.  
3 Indian city  
4 Sign  
5 Walker of golf  
6 Lame  
7 Hard-boiled ones  
8 Frigate  
9 U of Michigan  
10 Fast track  
11 Zone  
12 Mexican general  
13 Abolished being  
14 Unusual  
23 Arthur of TV  
25 Wide-bodied market  
26 Tree  
28 Unyielding  
29 Part of Q.E.F.  
30 Cut  
31 Youth go  
32 Foxes pack  
33 Sticky stuff  
34 Light measure  
36 Poor mark  
38 Hate of Ethiopia  
42 Strands  
44 Lickable  
45 Sch. subj.  
47 Dress up  
48 nose  
49 Baseball name  
50 throat  
51 Ping results  
52 Native dance  
53 Baseball place  
54 Wrist power  
56 A Caribbean  
58 Umpire's call

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff









## Barcelona, PSG to meet in Champions League quarterfinals

PARIS (Agencies) — Paris St. Germain retained their Champions League 100 per cent record with a 4-1 victory in their final group match against Spartak Moscow Wednesday.

Paris made it six wins out of six in Europe, booking a quarter-final tie against Barcelona, whose 1-1 draw against IFK Gothenburg was enough to earn them a place in the last eight from Group A.

George Weah scored twice to bring his tally to six in as many games. The 28-year-old attacker put Paris 1-0 up in the 27th minute.

Spartak's defence was under siege from the start and broke down when Daniel Bravo's through ball found Davis Ginola.

The striker who returned at the end of last month against Bayern Munich after a groin strain put Weah clear on the left to blast a 20-yard drive into the top right hand corner.

Paris, who have scored in every home game this season, went further ahead with a simply tap-in from Ginola after 42 minutes when Antoine Kombouare's cross found him unmarked 15 yards out.

Weah, who was substituted after 70 minutes, scored his sixth goal and put Paris 3-0 ahead seven minutes after half time. Weah burst into the box and beat two defenders before rounding the keeper in an outstanding display of individual skill.

Five minutes later Onopko missed a penalty for Spartak when his spot kick hit the bar.

Brazilian striker Rai, the team's leading league scorer, put Paris 4-0 up in the 59th minute when he turned in the box and shot into the corner from 10 yards.

Paris relaxed on their lead

and Spartak blushes were saved by Rodionov, who pulled one back after 67 minutes.

Ten minutes from time, Bernard Allou, who came in for Weah, rattled the bar with a header.

In Barcelona Jose Maria Bakero scored on a header in the 82nd minute to help Barcelona to a 1-1 draw with IFK Gothenburg, allowing the four-time Spanish League champions to advance with the Swedish side to the quarter-finals of the champions league.

Barcelona needed at least a draw to advance. Göteborg finished first in Group A and was already assured of moving on.

Barcelona needed at least a draw to advance. Göteborg finished first in Group A and was already assured of moving on.

Bakero scored on a sharp-angle from eight metres that sailed over the head of Göteborg goalie Thomas Ravelli and into the far corner of the net.

Göteborg's Stefan Rehn scored a meaningless goal in the 89th minute to make it 1-1 when he picked up a loose ball in a scramble in front of the net and hammered it home from six metres.

Rehn's goal didn't change the fact that both clubs moved on in Europe's most important club competition.

Both teams opened the match before 75,000 at Camp Nou Stadium with clear scoring chances in the first two minutes — Brazilian Romario for Barcelona and Stefan Pettersson for Göteborg.

The Spaniards carried the play in the first half and had the better scoring chances.

Barcelona's best scoring chance in the second half — prior to Bakero's decisive goal — came 20 minutes into



Manchester United's Simon Davies (right) opens scoring past a Galatasaray player during their Champions League match in Manchester (AFP photo)

the period when Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov centred a ball through the area that Romario barely failed to reach and direct into an open goal mouth.

In Manchester under-strength Manchester United cruised to a 4-0 victory over Turkish club Galatasaray but failed to make it to the quarter-final of the European Champions Cup.

The Reds wound up level on points with second place Barcelona in the Group A standings but the final positions were decided on the results of the two games played between the two teams. The game at Old Trafford

was a 2-2 tie but Barcelona, a 4-0 winner at Camp Nou, joined Sweden's Göteborg as Group A qualifiers.

United scored three times in the first 48 minutes to overpower Galatasaray before some 49,000 fans at Old Trafford before adding a fourth near the end.

The England champion, which lost its previous two games to Barcelona and Göteborg, was forced to face the Turks without even regular stars.

Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, wingers Ryan Giggs, Lee Sharpe and Ukrainian Andrei Kanchelski and defender Paul Parker were injured while striker

overcame their jet lag with some style.

Their win enabled them to finish as runners-up in Group D behind unbeaten Dutch champions Ajax Amsterdam despite losing two points because of crowd trouble at their earlier meeting with the Austrians in the San Siro.

Milan now meet Benfica, the Group C winners, in a last eight packed with formidable European clubs next march.

Bayern Munich, like Ajax three times winner of the trophy in the 1970s qualified with a convincing 4-1 win in the Ukraine against Dynamo Kiev.

### Scorers:

Hajduk — Stipe Andrijašević (48th)  
Steaua — Adrian Ilie (11th, 32nd), Marius Lacatus (25th), Constantin Gîlca (90th).

Attendance: 15,000

\* In Brussels: Anderlecht (Belgium) 1 Benfica (Portugal) 1 (0-0).

Scorers:  
Anderlecht — Graeme Rutjes (49th minute).  
Benfica — Silva Edilson (83rd).

Attendance: 22,000.

### Group D

\* In Amsterdam: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 2 AEK Athens (Greece) 0 (1-0).

Scorer: Tarik Onidja (7th, 78th).

Attendance: 42,000.

\* In Vienna: Austria Salzburg, (Austria) 0 AC Milan (Italy) 1 (0-1).

Scorer: Daniele Massaro (29th).

Attendance: 47,500.

### Champions Cup quarter-final ties

Quarter-finals (March 1 and 15)

1. Bayern Munich vs IFK Gothenburg  
2. Hajduk Split vs Ajax Amsterdam  
3. AC Milan vs Benfica Lisbon  
4. Barcelona vs Paris St. Germain.

Semi-finals (April 5 and 19)

Winner of 1 vs Winner of 2

Winner of 3 vs Winner of 4

Final (May 24)



Tarik Onidja of Ajax Amsterdam leaps over AEK Athens goalie Ilias Atmatsidis during their Champions League match in Amsterdam (AFP photo)

### Collated results of European Cup Champions' League final group matches.

#### Group A

\* In Manchester: Manchester United (England) 4 Galatasaray (Turkey) 0 (half-time 2-0).

Scorers: Simon Davies (3rd), David Beckham (38th), Roy Keane (49th), Korkmaz Bulent (88th, own goal).

Attendance: 39,220

\* In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain) 1 IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) 1 (0-0)

Scorers:

Barcelona — Jose Bakero (81st)

Gothenburg — Stefan Rehn (88th)

Attendance: 75,200.

#### Group B

\* In Paris: Paris St. Germain (France) 4 Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1 (2-0).

Scorers:

Paris St. Germain — George Weah (28th, 52nd), David Ginola (42nd), Rai (59th).

Spartak — Sergei Rodionov (67th).

Attendance: 31,561.

\* In Kiev: Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1 Bayern Munich (Germany) 4 (1-1)

Dynamo Kiev — Andrei Shevchenko (38th).

Bayern Munich — Christian Nerlinger (45th), Jean-Pierre Papin (56th, 82th), Mehmet Schol (87th).

Attendance: 60,000

#### Group C

\* In Split: Hajduk Split (Croatia) 1 Steaua Bucharest 4 (0-3)

## Seizinger fastest in downhill practice

LAKE LOUISE, Alberta (R) — Downhill ace Katja Seizinger of Germany warmed up for the World Cup race by posting the fastest time over a difficult, bumpy course on Thursday in the final women's downhill practice.

The reigning World Cup and Olympic champion was timed in one minute 40.44 seconds, well ahead of Switzerland's Heidi Zeller-Bachler who clocked 1:41.36.

Anita Wachter of Austria was third fastest in 1:41.45. Seizinger, who finished second in the downhill here

two years ago, said: "It's a good course, a demanding course."

She added the course was bumpy and that Thursday's dull light tended to make it appear flattened out.

"It's more difficult than it was two years ago and calls for greater technical skills," she said of the 2,639-metre long course which falls 707 metres.

"The temperature at the start of the training run was about -10 Celsius, but it dropped to about -18 by the time the 64 skiers had completed

their runs. A second training run was cancelled because of the late hour and drop in temperature.

Kate Pace, the top Canadian downhill, did not ski on Thursday after hurting her back in a crash Wednesday and is unlikely to compete this weekend.

When American Picabo Street heard about pace, she burst into tears. The Olympic silver medalist crashed in Colorado last week and said she empathised with her Canadian rival.

Street was eighth in the training run in 1:42.01.

## Brazil produces bewildering competition

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil has produced yet another in its unique line of bewildering soccer competitions.

The 1995 Rio De Janeiro Championship has just been unveiled to a perplexed public.

True to form, it features 34 teams, 30 of them minor semi-professional outfits with only a handful of supporters each, and a format that is likely once again to have fans scratching their heads in incomprehension.

The four major clubs are already busy working out how much money they expect to lose, while critics are pouring scorn on the competition.

First it was 16 teams, then it was 24. Last week it swelled to 32. Now it's 34. Unmistakably, a lawsuit in O Globo newspaper said.

"The federations organise championships that lose money and the clubs pay the bill," said Antonio Soares Calçada, president of Vasco Da Gama, who have won the tournament for the last three years.

"To put together the team

that the fans demand needs money and the current format is not profitable," Fluminense president Arnaldo Santiago said.

Unlike other major soccer nations, Brazil devotes half its season to regional championships, the ones in Rio De Janeiro and Sao Paulo being the most prominent. The national championship lasts just four months.

But even in Rio there are only four major teams — Vasco, Botafogo, Flamengo and Fluminense.

Under the rules of the 1995 competition, there will be just four important matches in the first 14 dates — two meetings between Flamengo and Fluminense and two between Vasco Da Gama and Botafogo.

The formula is immensely complicated, involving two groups each divided into sub-groups in the first stage and with each sub-group divided into two phases, to whittle the teams down to eight and then the four who will take part in the final round.

The big four have announced they will meet

and try to persuade the Rio De Janeiro federation to change the competition.

But they are keen to avoid a repeat of last year's war during which Flamengo, Fluminense and Botafogo threatened to form a break-away league.

If the formula stays untouched, there will be more head-scratching for the fans, who have just witnessed a national championship which used one of the most mind-bogglingly complex formats in soccer history.

A first stage consisting of four groups of six saw all 24 teams go through to a second stage, in which the teams were divided into three groups, two of which were then split into two phases. All this eventually produced eight quarter-finalists.

Brazilian soccer directors have an age-old fear of the traditional league format, fearing that if one team opens up a large lead early on, fans of the other teams will lose interest.

Consequently they have made an art form out of organising formats which give as many chances as possible to qualify for the final stage.

## NBA ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Phoenix and Washington, prevented from playing their National Basketball Association game Tuesday because of water condensation on the court, will try again April 6.

Charles Barkley and the Suns were not scheduled to play again in the U.S. capitol but were forced into a late-season return when unseasonably warm temperatures and an ice rink beneath the court combined to make the floor wet.

Water vapor from the air defied the efforts of workers to scrub the court clean.

The new date means the hometown Bullets will play three times in as many days, with a game at Indiana April 5, then a home match against the Suns before an April 7 home date against Charlotte.

The game comes during what was the longest break in the Phoenix season, a four-day gameless span. Now the Suns will play at Golden State April 4, visit Washington and play again April 9 in Portland.

In New York, an out-of-court settlement has been reached between two National Basketball Association players and a man who said he was attacked by them after hurling a snowball at their car.

Kevin Casavant had filed a

million-dollar lawsuit against Miami's Billy Owens and Chris Smith of Minnesota for the 1991 incident. No terms of the deal were disclosed.

In Cleveland, Cleveland Cavaliers general manager Wayne Embry has a problem with a new shoe commercial featuring National Basketball Association "bad boy" Dennis Rodman.

The advertisement shows Santa Claus reminding Rodman how bad he has been this year, through such means as skipping practice and leading the league in fouls and ejections.

But Rodman received his gift from Father Christmas, a new pair of sneakers, because he led the league in rebounds.

"What kind of message is that?" Embry said. "We're offended by this both as a basketball man and as an African-American. If you know Santa Claus is going to operate, I don't want my four-year-old daughter to believe in Santa."

### Thursday's games

Phoenix 133, New Jersey 116

Houston 101, Charlotte 95

Washington, 124, Dallas 121

OT

Utah 117, San Antonio 114

2OT

Sacramento 103, Seattle 91

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Jansher retains Pakistan Open

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan's world number one Jansher Khan clinched his fourth Pakistan Open squash title Friday with a thrilling five-game win over England's Peter Marshall. Third seed Marshall, ranked second in the world, fully tested Jansher, but the Pakistani eventually won 14-15, 15-14, 15-10, 9-15, 15-6.

### 3 out of round-the-world race

CAPE TOWN (AP) — A grueling round-the-world yacht race has conquered three more sailors, BOC challenge officials said Friday. Italian Simone Bianchetti, competing for the first time in the BOC challenge solo race, withdrew after returning to Cape Town for a second time Friday to remedy keel problems aboard his boat of Cervia. Floyd Romack of the United States, also a first-time competitor, was disqualified when he arrived in Cape Town on Thursday from Charleston, South Carolina after spending 82 days at sea on the first leg of the race. Rules state that competitors must complete a leg within 30 days after the arrival time of the first boat in their class. South African

### Maradona quits as coach

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Diego Maradona, his team in danger of being relegated to the second division, resigned as coach of the Argentine soccer club Deportivo Mandiyá, citing problems with the team president. Maradona, speaking at a news conference, said club president Roberto Cruz came to the dressing room after last Saturday's game and "said things he should not have said." Maradona did not elaborate. Maradona, 34, is banned from playing by FIFA, world soccer's governing body.

### Lawsuit possible in Gerulaitis death

NEW YORK (AFP) — The mother of tennis star Vitas Gerulaitis is seeking permission to inspect the site where her son died of carbon monoxide poisoning as a possible prelude to a lawsuit. Gerulaitis was found dead in a poolside cottage in Southampton, Long Island, on September 18. He was 40 years old. Investigators believe his death was caused by a faulty gas heater. His mother, Aldona Gerulaitis, filed papers in a Manhattan court seeking to inspect the premises to preserve evidence and discover whether to sue anyone.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH  
© 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AJ108543 ♣void ♠KJ9 ♠83  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠K78 ♠A88 ♠83 ♠KQ762  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠KJ6 ♠Q72 ♠AJ83 ♠KQ107  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠  
What do you bid now?  
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK983 ♠K72 ♠A8 ♠985  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK983 ♠K72 ♠A8 ♠985  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠AK983 ♠K72 ♠A8 ♠985  
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?  
A happy holiday season to all our readers!

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International food, gifts from around the world at reasonable prices, Home-made and imported delicious cakes, cookies, chocolates and pastries.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Entrance fee J.D. 2  
Tickets available at Promise Welfare Society  
in Um Uthayna, tel. 817723, or at Hotel Intercontinental

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## Grozny braces for imminent invasion as Yeltsin orders disarming

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Boris Yeltsin Friday ordered the disarming, by all available means, of illegally-formed armed groups in Chechnya, the Kremlin said.

A presidential decree called for a clamp down on armed groups in the rebel republic and in the neighbouring republics of Ingushetia and Northern Ossetia, a spokesman said.

Meanwhile, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev left Moscow also Friday for north Caucasus, where Russia has massed troops around Chechnya province, Itar-Tass said. It gave no details of his plans.

Mr. Grachev met separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev on Tuesday in north Caucasus and the two men agreed not to use force to end the crisis in Chechnya. But the Kremlin has since toughened its stance and Chechnya fears intervention by Russian troops.

However, pro-reformist members of parliament savaged President Yeltsin for his hardline policy in Chechnya, saying he risked

losing the support of the people and threatening to call for his impeachment.

One member of parliament told Interfax news agency that the armed and special Russian forces massed on the western border of Chechnya would almost certainly be ordered to attack.

Nine normally pro-Yeltsin members of the Duma, the parliament's lower house, sent a message to the president saying the blood of an invasion would be on his hands.

"The Russian government will be transformed from a democratic regime into a police regime," the statement said. Mr. Yeltsin "will lose the support of millions of Russian citizens," it added.

The Duma defence committee chairman, Sergei Yushenkov, said he and other deputies would launch an impeachment drive if Mr. Yeltsin ordered military action to solve the Chechen crisis.

Mr. Yushenkov accused Mr. Yeltsin of "massive extermination of citizens of the Russian Federation."

Russia does not recognise

Chechnya's 1991 declaration of independence.

Also Friday, the main opposition force in Chechnya said it would resume combat action to topple separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev next Monday, Itar-Tass reported.

It quoted an announcement by a spokesman for the opposition provisional council. The announcement followed a statement earlier on Friday that its fighters should be ready for battle by Tuesday.

"The headquarters of the provisional council's armed forces has announced that it will resume military actions against Dudayev's regime on December 12," Tass said.

The Moscow-backed opposition was defeated by Gen. Dudayev's troops in a key battle late last month and the council is saying that the Kremlin is dragging its feet over sending in forces.

Meanwhile, the Chechen authorities in Grozny ordered schools closed and residents frantically built fortifications amid rumours of an imminent assault by Russian troops on the capital of the breakaway republic.



FAREWELL: Their Majesties King Royal Highness Prince Claus of the Netherlands and Queen Noor Thursday bid lands at the end of the queen's 3-day visit to Jordan to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and His Majesty King Baudouin (Petra photo)

## Europeans 'cautiously' welcome U.S. offer to send troops to Bosnia

ESSEN, Germany (AP) — Having finally gotten an American pledge of military aid in Bosnia, European leaders on Friday welcomed the offer to help evacuate stranded U.N. peacekeepers, but warned a withdrawal could lead to more civilian casualties.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, hosting the European Union summit, pressed the others for a strong statement on the Bosnian crisis, which has caused extraordinary strains between Washington and its allies.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd sought to minimise trans-Atlantic differences and said U.S. President Clinton's statement showed that the Europeans are now working closely with Washington on Bosnia.

Mr. Hurd said the EU summit would not result in a different policy on Bosnia than Washington holds. "I think we all know we need to work closely with the United States and now we are doing so," he said in an interview with the CNN news network.

At the start of the two-day conference, several leaders praised the American offer to send up to 25,000 soldiers to help implement a U.N. pull-out. But the Europeans also urged caution.

"In principle, this is an encouraging political fact, but I hope that it is not necessary to implement," said Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok.

"I hope to convince the other EU members of the necessity to continue (United Nations) activities because I think they are doing a good job," Mr. Kok said.

In a slap at the French, Mr. Kok joined Prime Ministers Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium and Jacques Santer of Luxembourg in appealing for an end to speculation about a

troop withdrawal. France has said a pullout might be unavoidable.

Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Danish prime minister, expressed concern that the civilian population would suffer and that the conflict would spread in former Yugoslavia. "There is too little talk about what will happen if the peacekeepers leave," he said upon arrival late Thursday.

In Brussels, Belgium, NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes told the Belgian newspaper Le Soir that any withdrawal would be a "complicated and dangerous operation" taking place in a hostile environment.

"I'm asking myself the question whether a retreat is the best solution," Mr. Claes was quoted as saying in an interview before the U.S. announcement. "Especially since the European nations have the moral duty to think about their responsibilities in the Balkans in the short and medium term."

The Bosnia crisis took centre stage at the EU summit after President Clinton's unexpected pledge of U.S. troops Thursday. German Chancellor Kohl agreed to have the leaders discuss the issue over lunch, and foreign ministers had it on their evening agenda.

Until now, the United States has refused to send ground troops to Bosnia — a sore point with Britain, France and other allies, which have sent thousands of troops to protect the besieged civilian population.

Washington's refusal to lend support has led to a rift in the 16-Nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. All EU nations except neutral Ireland belong to the military alliance.

France, which has the most troops in Bosnia, has some of the harshest criticism for the

United States and has said Washington offers only advice while others have soldiers on the firing line.

Jonathan Eyal of the Royal United Services Institute in London suggested Washington's promise of troops was made partly "because it was stung by accusations that it was good at offering advice, but not troops."

With Mr. Clinton's unexpected move, the tough words may be muted at the summit in this Ruhr valley industrial city.

In Paris, the French foreign ministry welcomed as "positive" the American announcement.

"This goes in the direction we hoped because the contributions of our allies will be useful in the event of a decision to withdraw," said ministry spokeswoman Catherine Colonna.

The promise of troops marked another shift in Clinton administration policy on Bosnia. Last week, Washington swung to the viewpoint of other NATO allies that diplomacy, not force, was the best way to deal with the war.

NATO military strategists have been drawing up contingency plans in case of an evacuation. Some 20,000 to 40,000 troops would be needed, with about half expected from the United States.

Preparing for withdrawal has become a priority because the Bosnian Serbs have been holding peacekeepers hostage, attacking U.N.-declared safe areas and blocking food and medical supplies.

France has the most peacekeepers on the ground, some 4,500. Other EU nations taking part in the U.N. mission include: Britain, with about 3,500 peacekeepers; Belgium, 1,000; and Spain, 1,400.

## Mogadishu fighting claims 27

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Inter-clan warfare raging in Medina, a southern Mogadishu district, since Tuesday has left at least 27 people dead and more than 100 wounded, correspondents on the scene said Friday.

Meanwhile five Indian U.N. soldiers were hurt, including two seriously, overnight in the explosion of a mortar shell inside their camp at Mogadishu airport, which borders the Medina district, the Indian commander of the U.N. operation in Somalia said.

The correspondents visited Medina Friday during a lull in violent battles in the pocket, which is outside the control of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided whose supporters control the rest of the south of the lawless capital.

U.N. spokesmen said earlier U.N. troops had not been involved in the fighting.

Witnesses said the fighting pitted the Abgal and the Murusade, two rival factions of the Hawiye clan. It was reportedly sparked by the defection of one faction leader from the camp of self-styled "interim president" Ali Mahdi, who rules northern Mogadishu, to General Aided.

The flare-up of fighting in Somalia comes as the 15,000 U.N. troops here withdraw prior to a March 31 deadline following the failure of Gens. Aided and Ali Mahdi to agree on a government of national unity.

## First Ulster talks adjourn

BELFAST (AFP) — The first official peace talks in 25 years between the British government and the Sinn Féin political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) adjourned after three-and-a-half hours Friday until December 19.

"We made a beginning," said Sinn Féin chief negotiator Martin McGuinness.

The talks are to resume here four days after the government meets on Dec. 15 with representatives of the other side of the dispute, the loyalist militias.

"This is an historic opportunity which needs to be built upon," said Mr. McGuinness, the 44-year-old former IRA man who led the Sinn Féin team.

"We have told the representatives of the British government that it is now time to liberate the oppressed and the oppressor."

In its statement to the government side, read afterward to the press, Sinn Féin spoke of its "serious attempt to engage meaningfully and authoritatively with your government..."

## Norway will not extradite Palestinian

OSLO (R) — A Norwegian court on Friday rejected a German request for the extradition of a stateless woman arrested in connection with the 1977 hijacking of a Lufthansa airliner.

The Oslo probate court ordered the release of Souhaila Sami Andrawes, arrested in Norway on Oct. 13 at the request of German police.

Ms. Andrawes, 41, who has lived in Oslo for three years, is the only survivor of four hijackers who forced the Lufthansa plane to land in Somalia, demanding the release of 11 urban guerrillas held in West Germany and two Palestinians. The five-day drama ended when West German commandos stormed the aircraft and freed the 86 passengers.

"Conditions for extraditing her were not there. She will not be extradited," Brit Lund, a court official, told Reuters.

The court ruling was made as Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Oslo to receive the Nobel Prize and hold a summit with fellow laureate PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

## Italy's Di Pietro to tie the knot

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — After three years in the limelight as an anti-corruption crusader, Judge Antonio Di Pietro plans to take some time for himself and get married, colleagues said.

Judge Di Pietro, 44, who resigned Tuesday, plans to marry the woman he has been living with for the past 10 years, Susanna Mazzoleni. They have two children. The Milan magistrate who became a national hero with his Clean Hands corruption probe has yet to formalise his resignation by sending a letter to a judicial oversight panel as required. He has more than two months of vacation accrued, and with honeymoon time and other compensatory time for his resignation, he will remain on the government payroll for almost four months. Judge Di Pietro, nicknamed "the little judge" because of his rural upbringing and previous jobs as a labourer and policeman, is divorced from his first wife. They have one son.

Charles, Diana eligible for 'quickie divorce'

LONDON (R) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana, whose "fairytale" marriage dissolved in bitter recrimination, Friday became eligible for a "quickie" mutually agreed divorce. But two years to the day after their separation shocked Britain, the royal couple appear in no hurry to make the split final — even if they can now do so without a messy court hearing. Prince Charles, who admitted adultery in a controversial television documentary, told his authorised biographer that he had no plans to divorce. His beloved grandmother, the 94-year-old Queen Mother, is also opposed to divorce and he may wish to spare her the distress of witnessing a permanent parting. Princess Diana, shaken by allegations she had an affair with dashing cavalry officer James Hewitt, fears that if she makes the first move, she could lose her two young sons, Prince William, 12, and Prince Harry, 10, and see her popularity plummet. Andrew Morton, author of two international best-sellers about Princess Diana, predicts that the couple will not divorce for at least another year.

Japanese women marry later, work harder, have fewer children

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese women marry late, have few children, and are the hardest workers in the world's major industrialised nations, according to a government white paper released Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi, who is also in charge of government policies on women's affairs, reported the findings in the White Paper On Women. According to the report, the average Japanese woman married at the age of 26.1 and had 1.46 children in 1993. In response to a survey question on which family member was responsible for taking care of the children, 88.6 per cent of Japanese said the mother, while only 14.6 per cent said "all family members" shared the duty. In Sweden, the United States and France, more than 30 per cent of respondents cited "all family members."

The Japanese woman's average working week, including time spent on the job and on domestic chores, totalled 74.4 hours, which exceeded the average for men, which reached only 61.7 hours, the paper said. Women in other industrialised nations spent less time working at home and at their place of employment — 67.8 hours in France, 62.1 hours in the United States, and 59 hours in Britain. The white paper also said the birth rate was declining in Japan because women regard the burden of child-rearing and other domestic duties as increasingly heavy. On Tuesday, the Labour Ministry said that among two-income couples, wives spent three hours and 51 minutes per day on average on domestic chores and child care, while husbands spent only 12 minutes.

## Yazdi warns Khamenei critics

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of Iran's judiciary said Friday that critics of the country's spiritual leader could be prosecuted.

"Those who have access to the public through podiums or their pens, must not ask for and write in negative ways," says Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

In a sermon at Tehran University, he said violators "could be prosecuted."

Ayatollah Yazdi said Islamic law forbade criticism of the clergy.

His sermon, broadcast by the state-run Tehran Radio and monitored in Cyprus, was a warning to critics of Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Iran's theocratic government has named Ayatollah Khamenei as supreme spiritual leader of the world's 100 million Shiite Muslims.

It has identified him as the successor to Grand Ayatollah Ali Araki, who died earlier this month of old age. He was at least 100.

Traditionally, the succession has been a purely religious matter, free of government interference. But by naming Ayatollah Khamenei as the *marja al-ala*, or supreme spiritual leader of the sect, the Tehran establishment is trying to change the rules.

In the past, the supreme leaders of the sect have steered clear of involvement in politics.

But Iran's goal is to fuse political and religious power in a single person to boost its own influence at home and among Shiites worldwide, and to promote its own version of militant Islam.

But Ayatollah Yazdi's comments indicated there was criticism inside Iran of

official efforts to promote Ayatollah Khamenei as the *marja al-ala*. The succession also could be rejected by Shiites in other countries.

Traditionally, the *marja al-ala* has been chosen from the top-ranking clerics, or grand ayatollahs. There are at least five living.

Several senior Iranian clerics have referred to Khamenei as a grand ayatollah since Ayatollah Araki's death. But inside the organised Shiite hierarchy, Ayatollah Khamenei, 55, is regarded as a middle-ranking cleric without the credentials to be supreme leader.

Shiite Muslims comprise about 10 per cent of the world's one billion Muslims. Elsewhere in his sermon, Ayatollah Yazdi said that Serbs convicted of war crimes could be sent to Iran to live out their prison sentences.

## General census starts today

(Continued from page 1)

Yesterday, the department ran advertisements in the Arabic dailies in the form of a reminder asking those who had lost or disposed of the former reminders to use the ads to record the number of persons who were at their home on the evening of Dec. 9.

Census questions go beyond basic demographic information — notably, the census will not only ask for past residents and refugee status, but also date and place of birth of both mother and father.

Abdullah Abdul Aziz

Zoubi, executive director of the 1994 census, said it is only natural that the government should want these statistics.

"The government has to study migration trends," he said. "It is important in a place like Jordan where the population has increased significantly over short periods of time."

The most important objective of the census, he said, is to establish the number of inhabitants in each governorate so as to facilitate policy-making and planning.

The last census, in 1979, recorded approximately two

million Jordanians. Now, 15 years later, it is estimated that the Kingdom's population has nearly doubled to over four million people.

The census will record all Jordanians, foreigners living in Jordan, all those entering the Kingdom on the evenings of the census as well as Jordanians residing abroad for a 12-month period or less (students, tourists, businessmen).

The census will not be an excuse for a leisurely few days of rest and relaxation. Unlike other countries, said Dr. Zoubi, no one is required to stay at home to facilitate census procedures.

before negotiating the scale of any withdrawal.

Israel has recently said there was no point resuming bilateral talks in Washington unless there was something to talk about.

Haaretz said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher had on Tuesday in Damascus tried to persuade Syrian President Hafez Al Assad that every inch of land Israel surrendered should be demilitarised and palced under international control.

## Israel's reliability as peace partner seriously questioned

By Michael Jansen

ON THURSDAY, after six days of consideration and debate in four cabinet meetings, the Israeli government decided to adhere to the Oslo accord, concluded with the Palestinians, thereby averting the most serious crisis so far faced by regional peace-makers.

"According to the Oslo accord Israel would have had to permanently 'redeploy' its army 'outside populated areas... not later than the eve of elections' for a Palestinian self-governing council."

However, Israeli generals and cabinet ministers now argue that settlers will be at risk from attack by Islamic militants if the troops were withdrawn. Some called for Israel to

make unilateral changes in the Oslo accord, others for its "renegotiation", while the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, pressed for postponement of this stage "for two or three years."

The Palestinians responded by demanding prompt implementation of the accord while the Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Musa, said failure to abide by it would be "disastrous."

The "doves" in the cabinet, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, were forced to trade-off the reaffirmation of Israel's commitment to "redeploy" for a promise not to raise the question of moving or removing any Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories before the interim period of self-rule has ended.

Although such a provision has been written into the Oslo accord, the doves had hoped to remove militant settlers from the most sensitive Palestinian population centres (such as central Hebron) in order to make the army's security task easier.

The cabinet "hawks" led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who sustained a defeat at the hands of the "doves," can now be expected to demand wide powers to ensure the security of settlers in the areas of the West Bank affected by the "redemption."

Among such arrangements would be an entirely new network of roads to be used by settlers only — a sort of apartheid by highway.

It took the efforts of both the "doves" and U.S. secretary of state, Warren Christopher, on his seventh

visit to the region this year, to defeat this attempt by the Israeli military establishment and hawkish politicians to revoke or rewrite the Oslo accord.

These revisionist hawks began their campaign during last Sunday's regular cabinet meeting when military experts reported that such a redeployment would increase the risk of Islamist attacks on Israeli settlers living in the West Bank, citing the fact that 32 Israelis had been killed since Oct. 1.

Mr. Christopher took an unexpectedly firm stand, warning the Israelis against "unilaterally" rewriting the accord or ignoring its provisions, aware that any attempt to do so would invalidate the accord and undermine the entire peace process. However, he somewhat weakened this

stand by stating that Israel could not be expected to pull out its troops if the security of the settlers could not be provided by the Palestinian National Authority.

Thus Mr. Christopher's shuttle mission, meant to secure progress on the Syria-Israel track, became a damage-limitation effort on the PLO-Israel track. At stake was not only the survival of the Oslo accord, the basic document of regional peacemaking, but the peace process itself, for without the Palestinians there can be no general Arab-Israeli settlement.

But even Mr. Christopher could not stem the considerable damage done by this week's crisis, a crisis which has consistently been underplayed in the world media. The very fact that

the Israeli cabinet debated whether or not to implement the provisions of a solemn agreement concluded with Israel's major Arab antagonist calls into question Israel's reliability as a peace partner.

Syria and Lebanon, the two countries which have not yet concluded agreements with Israel, will now be very reluctant to take anything on trust and can be expected to demand "full Israeli withdrawal" before conceding anything to Israel in terms of non-belligerency and normalisation. They can also be expected to insist on iron-clad guarantees for any accords they sign with Israel, though it is difficult to see how such guarantees can be provided because the U.S. remains totally committed to Israel and its policy positions.